

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 167, Vol. VII.

Saturday, March 10, 1866.

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If Nasser-ed-deen read in the *Times*, which is often translated for his benefit, the difficulties of many of his European brothers in 1848, he might justly have inferred that the tumults which attended the death of his father were not more serious than those which are incidental to changes of government elsewhere. Supported by the British and Russian Ministers, his throne was safe from the first. One rebellion alone was formidable—that of Khorassan. Nor was it put down at once. Anxious for the conclusion of civil war, and above all desirous of exercising a predominant influence over the Shah, the foreign Ministers offered their mediation. But the Ameer-i-Nizam—such was the title assumed by Meerza Teki—replied in a manner worthy of the days when Persia was no mean rival of the Cæsars, that it was better the inhabitants of Meshed should be brought back to their duty through the loss of twenty thousand men, than that the city should be won for the Shah through foreign interference.

The modern Persians are taught, like their ancestors, to fight and to ride, but they are not taught, like them, to speak the truth. The Ameer was an exception. He might have boasted, with much greater reason than the Emperor Nicholas, that he was the one honest and incorruptible man in his master's dominions. To say that he introduced

reforms into every branch of the administration, that he abolished sinecure pensions and the sale of places, that he was tolerant and merciful, is to say in other words that he enjoyed the unbounded confidence of the Shah, and studied no other interest but his. But he had aims far beyond this. Though no doubt he was aware of the nature of constitutional government, as it is understood by us, he made no pretence of consulting the inclinations of the people, or of wishing to educate them. But he would lay the foundations for those to come after him. It is often said that Orientals despise simplicity, and will pay no ready obedience except to outward splendour and barbaric ostentation. But the Ameer thought otherwise. He decreed that in all public documents he should be addressed by the single title of “Excellency.” The occupation of the inventors of verbiage was gone, and for a few years an American simplicity crept into the language of flowers and flattery. The Ameer knew how to yield as well as how to command. He laid down his office before a mutinous soldiery, much as an English Minister defers to a majority of the Commons, secure of returning to power when it appears there is no one else to fill his place. He bowed before the insolence of Russia, and permitted the establishment of her forces on the islands of the Caspian. He disdained to cover the weakness of his country by excuses such as even the aggressor thought necessary for his credit; but with true wisdom he rectified the balance by conceding of his own accord the right of search to British vessels of war.

To moderate fanaticism must be one great object with an enlightened Mahomedan ruler. But though the Ameer had not only the Shah, and not only the highest ecclesiastical authorities, but even the dogmas of orthodoxy on his side, he was unable to defraud the Persian sectarians of their favourite exhibition of the sufferings and martyrdom of Hussein. Yet he abolished the right of sanctuary in the most considerable cities of the kingdom, and gave indications that he would have known how to play off the heresy of Babism against the priests of Mahomed, had he continued to retain the confidence of his King. The story of his disgrace, the devotion of his wife—the sister of the Shah, in whose presence no man may be put to death—the reluctance of the executioners, the fatal interference of the Russian Minister, and the closing scene of “the last of the Persians,” are dramatically told by Mr. Watson. Many of us can still remember the horror which his fate excited in Europe, and we can fancy the remorse of the King, and the unavailing regrets of his subjects. Death has magnified the merits of the departed. He is already the hero of legend and romance, and the muleteers, while they assent to the complaints of the traveller, assure him that “everything may now go badly, but that things were otherwise in the time of the Ameer-i-Nizam.”

In the opinion of our author it is neither the religion, nor the softness of an Oriental climate, nor the want of energy, or even of sagacity on the part of its rulers which has reduced Persia to the ignominious position of a debateable ground between the two great Powers who one day will divide the fee of the East between them. It is a matter of blood and race—another of those anthropological questions which are pressing themselves every day upon the attention of statesmen.

Persia during the last two thousand years has been repeatedly overrun by foreign conquerors, to fall victims in their turn to some fresh irruption of an uncorrupted race. It was an essential feature in Mr. Buckle's speculations that he laid no stress upon race at all; and many of Mr. Watson's personal observations seem inconsistent with his own theory. The Persians, he tells us, would make, under a competent commander, the best soldiers in the world. They can subsist for days upon a little bread and an onion. They can make forced marches which would have astonished even the soldiers of the French

Republic under Buonaparte. On several occasions the dynasty of the Kajars has owed its existence to this quality of their troops, and we can all understand how much depends in an Oriental country on the sudden and menacing presence of the Shah. The Persian peasant works hard, and the population are unusually robust and free from sickness. Their lot may be favourably compared with that of the working men of the West. Persia, moreover, is peopled by various races; a fact which of itself goes far to belie the idea that it can only owe any permanent improvement to the addition of yet another incursion; nor does there seem to be any good reason why a nation of ten millions, for whom so much can be said, should not be capable of tunnelling the Elburz Mountains, and diverting the streams which waste their volumes on the barren north, to the thirsty plain of Tehran. To sow fir-cones along the southern slopes is a still easier operation, and the rain which would be attracted thereby must wash away the reproach that the Persians inhabit a vast desert, spotted with many fertile oases. The royal family has preserved its vigour, because the Shah is far too great to care about the extraction of his wife. Any beautiful woman may become the mother of a line of princes. Though the Shahzadehs seldom enjoy the advantages of foreign travel, they can always command the conversation of the members of the different European embassies. No product of European luxury or art can arrive at Tehran without coming to the knowledge of the Court. Hence the government is far in advance of the people. Nor is it altogether insensible to its duties. Amongst other reforms, the custom of making the Shah witness of his own sentences was abolished by Meerza Teki, and it is curious that, whilst our philanthropists are declaiming against the barbarity of public executions, the institution of that practice is held up by Mr. Watson as a great step in Eastern civilization. It is not of Persia alone that it may be said the history is little more than a record of deeds of violence and blood. The first thing wanting is an alteration which can be brought about by no Prime Minister, however powerful. The succession to the throne must be regulated by some definite law. This is one of the few matters in which the interference of European Powers might be of benefit; for their recognition of his title is essential, as it is, to the Shah. Persia would then be much in the political condition of the kingdoms of the West when the feudal system began to decay. The treacheries of Mahomed Aga might easily be paralleled by those of Louis XI. The uncertainty of life for those who lose the favour of the monarch cannot be greater than it was under our Henry VIII. Walpole was the first Minister who preserved his head after he had lost his office; and the murderer of the Ameer has been glad to learn by experience that it is possible for a Vizier of Persia to enjoy existence in retirement. The divinity which hedges a king is in reality far greater in the West than in the East; and if an increased intercourse with Europe should induce some Shah who prefers the substance to the shadow to adopt the theory of responsible Ministers, and should divest himself of the odious office of pronouncing the death-warrant of criminals, and the confiscation of property, the security which would attach to his person must soon be extended to those of humbler rank. We are inclined to think that sufficient importance has not been attached by philosophic historians to the experience which we unconsciously derive from the examination of the successive changes which expediency has introduced with a view to the unbroken preservation and comfort of the kingly office. The example of his predecessors was not recorded in vain for Diocletian, when he surrounded himself with etiquette, and assumed the titles of Our Lord and Master. He saw the advantage of a ferocious colleague, and first enforced the maxim that a king's face should give grace. The crimes of the Cæsars were not greater,

nor their fate more terrible, than those of many Oriental monarchs; but they have been recorded in language which will never be forgotten; and the very efforts of modern kings to claim some sort of political pedigree from the masters of the world has tended to create an ever-broadening sea of precedents. It is thus that the command of armies, the personal administration of justice, and the keys of the treasury have, one by one, been taken from the immediate control of kings. To understand the limit of their functions and the best means of getting what they want occupies their lifetime; and they provide fresh material for the consideration of their successors. The government of Persia is a constant recurrence to first principles. The bare annals of earlier dynasties are written in vain. The connexion of events is always being broken. But this is not an affair of either race or religion. We cannot ourselves trace our immunity from internal commotions further back than the Act of Settlement. The childhood of Persia may have been very prolonged, but until some of the indispensable conditions for progress have been tried there to no purpose, we are not justified in concluding that the only hope for the country of Meerza Teki Khan is to become an appanage of Great Britain.

ANGLING.

An Angler's Rambles and Angling Songs. By Thomas Stoddart, Author of "The Angler's Companion to the Rivers and Lochs of Scotland." (Edinburgh: Edmonston & Douglas.)

EVER since the days of good old Izaak Walton, writers on the gentle craft have felt bound to lighten up their graver prose disquisitions with snatches of verse here and there; and to be able to troll a ditty seems to the true angler almost a necessary accomplishment. The North of England fishermen, for instance, have for many years cultivated the art of verse-making, and "The Fisher's Garland," which is published at Newcastle, and is considerably added to at the issue of every new edition, is looked upon by the fraternity almost in the light of a classic. The angler in this respect is a curious study; and, as compared with sportsmen in any other walk, is familiar with the polite literature of his own and often of other lands, as well as with the great book of nature. His leaning is decidedly literary; and, in spite of the disparaging remarks of some writers, he is essentially a man of sentiment, and consequently wonderfully alive to the influences of song. A certain mild kind of philosophy, too, pervades his being; and the true type of Waltonian is thus a sociable, as well as an instructive man.

The handsome volume before us, then, is after the orthodox pattern. We have prose and verse alternately; the former, of course, predominating, and both indicating the necessary culture and breathing the pure healthy spirit of one who makes river-side wandering and observation the business of his life.

Mr. Stoddart is one of that famous group of salmon-fishers in Scotland among whom are reckoned Mr. Russell, of the "Scotsman," and Mr. Dunbar, of Brawl Castle, very appropriately designated "the impetuous" by the late gifted "Ephemer." He has during the last thirty years fished almost every burn and river in the northern end of the island, and his name has now for some time been honourably associated with the literature of the sport.

When Mr. Stoddart, then, has occasion to say anything of the natural history of the *Salar*, *eriox* or *albus*, we are bound to listen to him respectfully. He does not invariably command our assent; but we find ourselves agreeing with him much more frequently than otherwise. When, for instance, he demurs to the stories told by the natives of the immense size of the trout caught occasionally in their mountain lochs, we are quite at one with him. The age of

marvel and myth still lingers in some of the more remote corners of the Highlands; and whenever the sportsman comes upon a pool or loch more grim in its physical character than ordinary, he may be sure that in the imaginative mind of the Celt it is tenanted by some monster of the *ferox* tribe of more than antediluvian dimensions.

Again, we quite agree with the author in combating the notions of the late Andrew Young, of Invershin, about the habits of the otter, and especially about its desirability in a salmon river. Mr. Young, like all self-taught, successful men, was stubbornly dogmatical, and there was no gainsaying an idea he had once taken up. We do not believe he ever "saw an otter bring and lay on the bank a dozen trout in the course of half-an-hour." We should like to see the opinion of such men as Mr. Dunbar on the subject, who has had a much wider field for observation, and is altogether a much sounder naturalist.

Our author may be right as to the evils of over-draining the country; but his idea about changing the whole course of the Forth would require much ventilating before ever it became fact. No; we prefer him when he speaks of his more immediate craft, and when he sings us one of his charming songs, or reads from his notebook the result of his day's sport. And let not the uninitiated jeer at the word as applied to fishing. Londoners must not judge of the glorious exercise of muscle which the successful wielding of an eighteen-foot rod necessitates by looking at the motionless automata who are to be seen sitting hour after hour, "from morn till noon, from noon till dewy eve," in the melancholy punts at Richmond. What can such creatures know of the enthusiasm of the fly-fisher, when—

A birr! a whirr! a salmon's on,
A goodly fish, a thumper!
Bring up, bring up the ready gaff,
And when we land him we will quaff
Another glorious bumper!
Hark! 'tis the music of the reel,
The strong, the quick, the steady;
The line darts from the circling wheel,
Have all things right and ready.

Those who desire sound impressions of the angler's craft, especially in its noblest department, that of salmon fishing, would do well to consult Mr. Stoddart's pages. The late Christopher North, the Ettrick Shepherd, and sundry other good men and true, whose influence on the literature of the country has not been altogether unfelt, the reader will find occasionally his companions; and when in his rambles he has Mr. Stoddart for his only friend, he will always find him cheerful, observant, and scholarly. Should the pools prove lazy, or the sun look down too ardently, he will while away the time with a pleasant anecdote; and whether you carry home heavy creels or no, the reeking tumbler will be none the less welcome because the precursor of a joyous song.

Among all the rivers mentioned by Mr. Stoddart we do not see the names of two which in their respective ways are as famous for fish as any. The one is in the extreme north of England, and is celebrated in many a Northumbrian ditty for its trout, albeit, previous to the late acts of Parliament, it was poached for the Paris market at a most exhaustive rate. We allude to the Cocquet. The other is the Thurso, in Caithness, and, considering its length, we regard it as the most fruitful stream in Scotland. We speak of both from experience. The course of the latter, unlike that of any other stream in the island, is due north; and we must refer to the notebooks of successful Norwegian sportsmen before we can anything like equal the annals of this river as preserved and tabulated by the jealous but faithful hand of Mr. Dunbar.

With these two omissions, Mr. Stoddart's book is one of no ordinary interest, and we regard it as a decided acquisition to the literary stores of the angler. His observation is keen even to scientific reliability; the prose parts of the book clear, unaffected,

and scholarly; while many of the songs have that lilt-like quality which almost makes them sing themselves, and the more serious and descriptive pieces possess a fine feeling for nature, and individual passages of no mean beauty.

THE STUDY OF ENGLISH.

English Literature and Composition: A Guide to Candidates in those Departments in the Indian Civil Service. By Rev. Robert Demaus, M.A.;—*Manual of English Literature: Historical and Critical.* By T. Arnold, B.A. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)

A Compendious History of the English Language and of the English Literature. By George L. Craik, LL.D. (Griffith, Bohn, & Co.)

The Student's Manual of the English Language. By George P. Marsh;—*The Student's Manual of English Literature.* By T. B. Shaw, M.A. (John Murray).

Lectures on the British Poets: Introduction to English Literature from Chaucer to Tennyson. By Henry Reed. (John F. Shaw & Co.)

Keane's Handbook of the English Language. (Longman & Co.)

WHEN the examinations for the Indian Civil Service, as they are now conducted, were first originated, a new and important era occurred in the history of modern education. For the energies both of master and scholar a fresh and untried field was opened; and the result has, in the main, been productive of immense good. A greater variety of outlets than had yet existed for youthful capacities was much needed. Hitherto a lad who was not destined to become an accomplished classical or mathematical scholar could look forward to little. He might, of course, ultimately develop into a successful barrister, or contrive to earn an honourable living by his pen; but there was nothing which he could hope to gain as the immediate reward of his school studies. The universities would not confer their honours upon him for an acquaintance with modern languages and literature, for a hankering after natural science, or for dabbling in scientific experiments. Thus the unfortunate youth, to whom Plato, Tacitus, and Euclid were alike equally distasteful, was reduced almost to despair. But the scholastic sphere has now ceased to be thus cabined or confined. Juvenile ability of any kind, and energy, in whatever direction applied, are diligently respected. The boy who fails to write Latin prose correctly, or Greek iambics elegantly, who has an insuperable aversion to quadratics, and no great fondness for subtle arithmetical problems, is no longer cut off from all hope. Chemistry, the languages of modern Europe or Asia, or even the more familiar tongue of his native land, will, if carefully studied, yield him a fruitful harvest. It is quite possible that he should gain the highest appointment, which it is in the power of Government to bestow, without knowing ten words of Latin or Greek, or without having ever read a page in geometry, or being able to work a single sum in algebra. By a fair acquaintance with the English literature and language he may obtain a sufficient number of marks to swamp the united results of classical labours; in other words, in twelve months he may, for all practical purposes, amass more knowledge than he could reasonably look forward to as the fruit of six or seven years' severely uncongenial study. There is not the least reason why a lad possessed of quick observation, some taste, and a sound memory, should not gain full marks in the English department of the Indian Civil Service Examination. At first sight, the questions which he will have to answer may be somewhat bewildering. So wide appears the range of subjects which they include, that the tyro may be pardoned for thinking that a knowledge only of the whole circle of English literature will secure him from discomfiture. He is, however, merely labouring under the delusion common to all the uninitiated. Short cuts to perfection are plentiful. Let him have recourse to some experienced

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"crammer," who can "view with eye serene the very pulse of the machine," and he will soon discover that his alarm was utterly unfounded. After all, it will be quite possible for him to write an exhaustive criticism on Anglo-Saxon poetry, on Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, or Pope, with as slender an acquaintance with these authors as he probably possesses with the Eddas and Sagas. His guide, philosopher, and friend will give him certain notes, will recommend to him certain manuals, will supply him with judicious hints; and, if he does but take the advice he receives, the pupil will speedily be in a position to defy the sternest of examiners and the most formidable of examination papers. Armed at all points, there will be nothing vulnerable about him. He walks up to Burlington House calmly repeating to himself a series of cabalistic formulæ; to many persons they might convey no meaning whatever—to him they are everything. In some hundred and fifty words he will have a compressed sketch of English literature, duly supplemented by chronological accessories. As he looks over the paper which has been set, a glow of conscious triumph diffuses itself over his countenance; he seizes his pen, and in three hours' time he has given an epitome of British authorship from Piers Plowman to Tupper. Naturally, he does not remember very much of this for any length of time; but the information cannot pass from off him without leaving its marks; and he has, at any rate, gone through a considerable amount of mental discipline. English composition is a somewhat different matter; but a boy of any acumen, who has had the advantage of a few judicious instructions and hints, will have no great difficulty in writing a very decent essay. Demand creates supply; and the new requirements of examiners have given rise to a new class of school-books. As the studies of the pupil are all pursued with sole reference to one end—a good place in the examination—so, too, are the various manuals nicely calculated to enable him to effect this grand aim. Questions, which suggest themselves to the author's mind, as in any way likely to be asked, are carefully dwelt upon. The most ingenious and perverse of examiners is confined within certain limits, and the combinations which may occur are not inexhaustible. To a person who has frequently felt the examinational pulse, the construction of a volume, which may be relied upon as nearly sufficient by intending candidates, is no very difficult task. It needs a tolerably extensive knowledge of the subject, and, above all, experience. A sound and safe treatise on whist can only be written by one who is perfect in the game; and a volume which is to guide the aspirant through the perilous rocks and quicksands of examinations must be alone produced by one who has a full grasp of their principles and rules.

As might be expected, nothing is more remarkable in the works now before us than their rigidly practical character; we use the epithet in no depreciatory tone. They are written professedly with the object of enabling their reader to satisfactorily undergo a special examination, and they fulfil their mission faithfully. Mr. Arnold's manual is worthy of high praise. It is ingenious and interesting—a work which the pupil may be tempted to take up when the actual necessity for reading it has passed. The divisions of authors and their subjects are clearly made; there is an art about it higher than that usually displayed by the instructor, whose one object it is to convey the utmost conceivable amount of knowledge in the shortest possible time. The critical portions of the volume are remarkably well executed; and Mr. Arnold's manual is worthy to rank above the ordinary handbooks of cram. Dr. Craik's "History of English Literature" might be read collaterally with the preceding work; it will be found to furnish information on all those points which Mr. Arnold, through the brevity and compactness of his treatise, has been compelled to pass over. The specimens

are judiciously chosen, and we can fancy no better course for the pupil to pursue than, after having framed for himself a chart of the ground, which he is to traverse, from the perusal of some more elementary volume, to turn to Dr. Craik's elaborate production and supplement his pre-existent stock of information from this source. We believe that in this manner a tolerably accurate knowledge of the course of English literature would be gained. The great merit in each of the works that we have just noticed is that while they answer all the purposes of the driest of school-books, they escape, from the method of their execution, the aversion with which professedly educational treatises sometimes inspire the youthful mind. Mr. Murray's manuals are remarkable for their conciseness and clearness; there are one or two points on which we differ from Mr. Marsh in his views on the English language; but the merit of his production is undeniable; and Mr. Shaw's "English Literature" is an excellent compilation. While we are on the subject of language, we must mention with the very highest praise Mr. Keane's handbook. In 128 small pages the learner will find almost all he need know. Out of the questions, which were set at the last examination of the Indian Civil Service, hardly one occurs for the answer of which there are not sufficient materials in this wonderful little treatise. That the method, which Mr. Keane has adopted, is profound or philosophical it would be foolishness to pretend; but exhaustive criticism is neither wished nor expected from those who will profit by its perusal. We should be glad to hear that the "Lectures on the British Poets" by Professor Reed were generally read by students of British literature. With the style we have many faults to find; it is, too often, inflated, diffuse, and meaningless. But there is much to be gleaned from the method of arrangement, and from the subject-matter. The time necessary for extracting what is valuable from this volume is very short, and it would be profitably employed. The same remarks are applicable to his "Introduction."

We will revert to the volume which stands first on our list. It is merely what its after-title implies, "a guide;" it simply gives directions as to what books should be read, supplies hints as to the style in which questions should be answered, examples being appended of what Mr. Demaus evidently believes to be the most perfect replies conceivable of some ideal examinee. The reader is also told how he ought to set to work to write an essay, and what are the models of style that he should propose to himself. We do not quite see what good can be effected by the publication of this volume. The hints, which its author throws out, are evidently sound enough, but there is nothing in the smallest degree extraordinary about them. Mr. Demaus when he is at his best merely says what any sensible man, who had had experience of the youthful mind, would say. The volumes which he recommends would be mentioned by the tutor to his pupil. The examples of questions which he gives are to be found in the reports of the Indian Civil Service Commission, and the answers which he has framed are not especially good. When it is asked "Of what ancient poem is Johnson's 'London' a free version?" it is rather a loose style of work to reply merely that "It is an imitation of one of the Satires of Juvenal." Every boy who has read a page of Johnson or looked into the writings of the great Roman satirist should be able to compare the line—

Laudo tamen vacuis quod sedem figere Cumis
Destinet—

and—

Yet still my calmer thoughts his choice commend,
I praise the hermit, but regret the friend.

As for the advice which Mr. Demaus gives on the subject of English composition, if there is much in it which is admirably true, there are also, we are inclined to think, one or two remarks which may possibly exercise an

injurious influence on the juvenile author. It is a dangerous thing to tell a lad to mould his style upon that of a leader in the *Times* or an article in the *Saturday Review*. In both there is very likely much to be admired and imitated; but then it may be questioned whether a young reader will in all cases be judicious enough to seize hold of the exact points, which he should select for his imitation. It is quite conceivable that he may be bewildered by the *bizarrie* of the journalist, and reproduce the glitter without the fire. When Mr. Demaus advises the incipient essayist to study such an author as Sir Thomas Browne, he does well, and had he added the name of John Milton, he would have done still better. The hints, also, thrown out with respect to the method of handling a subject are good. It is systematic arrangement of thoughts in which boys generally fail. Many have a sufficient power of language to enable them to express, somehow or other, what they think and know; but an essay, in which the subject is properly and gradually developed, in which thought follows thought, and sentence sentence, on some fixed principle, and not capriciously or disconnectedly, is rarely produced, even under pressure of an examination. For these reasons, the Commissioners are not wrong in allowing 500 marks to English composition; there can be no better test of ability or of power of concentration. A potential senior wrangler or Ireland scholar might fail utterly to perform the duties of an efficient servant of Government. But a lad who has the judgment which enables him to discern any subject in its most important light, and the command of diction which clothes his thoughts in terse, vigorous sentences, is sure with time and experience to prove of value to the service into which he has entered. Mr. Demaus has made the same observations with reference to this important subject that have proceeded at all ages from those who are acquainted with the tendency which nine lads out of ten display, to be turgid and diluted in their English composition. Boys are apt to pay the greater respect to advice when they see it enforced with the full emphasis of print; for this reason Mr. Demaus may, perhaps, have done a good work.

There are few, we think, possessed of any interest in the question of education who will not be sincerely glad both at the incentives lately afforded to the study of English, and the methods which have sprung up of promoting it. Such manuals as we have here noticed are an entirely novel feature in educational literature, and as desirable as they are new. There is much which we would censure in a recognized system of cram; but an English lad ought surely to have some knowledge of his native language, and even a superficial acquaintance with it is better than none at all.

MACLEOD'S EASTWARD.

Eastward. By Norman Macleod, D.D., one of Her Majesty's Chaplains. With 70 Illustrations from Photographs, Engraved by Joseph Swain. (Alexander Strahan.)

ALTHOUGH there is nothing so difficult as a beginning, Dr. Macleod has given us a very interesting one to his journey eastward; and many a tourist who has "done Egypt and Palestine" will travel again over the old ground in reading the elegantly printed pages of the work before us. It contains amusing narrations of some of the most striking everyday incidents of Eastern travel, which cannot fail to produce vivid reminiscences in the minds of those who have chattered with Oriental merchants in the resplendent bazaars of *El Kairah* and *Es Sham*; who have stood on the beach of Tyre and Sidon, and gazed on the colossal remains of ancient cities which have been rolled up high and dry by the waves from the vistas of marble and porphyry columns which still stand beneath the clear blue water amidst a tangle of seaweed; who have eaten dates

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under the palm groves of Caiffa, waded the river Kishon, or stood and gazed upon that marvellous rock under the great dome of Jerusalem, which, surrounded as it is with legend and history, is one of the most interesting and remarkable spots on the earth's surface. "Eastward," like a photographic album, is most pleasing to those who know the originals; and the work does not profess to do more than give sketchy descriptions of the sights its author saw in the East. Take that of Heliopolis for example:—

The ride to it through the country is most pleasant, with the green fields, palms, acacia and sycamore trees, and springs of water and water-mills. On reaching it, one sees little with the outward eye except a grand obelisk with sharply-cut hieroglyphics, standing in an open space of tilled fields, which are surrounded by mounds and walls of brick, in which the chopped straw that was mixed with the clay is yet visible.

—a description sufficient to recall the scene to the mind of him who has once beheld it.

When the doctor gets into Palestine, however, his book assumes more the character of a topographical atlas of the Bible; and the learned author tells his readers much more about the thoughts which passed through his mind in each locality than about what he saw. His account of the extraordinary convent of Mar-Saba is one of the most graphic in the book, although it in no way equals that of Burckhardt.

But how can I give an idea of the convent? Well, imagine a cell scooped out between the ledges of those rocks, then several others near it, and then a cave enlarged into a chapel, and this chapel becoming the parish church of the wild glen, and being surrounded by other cells and houses built on this ledge of rock, and others below on another ridge reached by stairs, and others on story below story, and so down the face of the precipice; cells, and chapels, and houses being multiplied until from the ridge above to the stream below a beehive has been formed, which is finally defended by high walls and two strong towers.

In speaking of the Bedouins, and more especially of the Agha of Galilee, well known as Agyhil Agha, the author has transgressed the principle which we are happy to see he has laid down for himself in writing the work before us, of neither compiling "quotations from books obtained from a circulating or more recondite library," nor of expressing "second-hand opinions upon subjects which he had not time to enter into himself." He says:—

Much is said about the power of a certain Agyhil Agha, who reigns over the plain [Esdraelon], and is employed as a sort of detective, on the principle, I suppose, of setting one thief to catch another. Agha, from suspicion or jealousy, was at one time dismissed by the Government of Constantinople, and another governor, or pasha, or detective, put in his place. But he attacked the Turkish troops who were sent to seize him, and massacred about eighty of them. Having thus shown his talent and force of character to the satisfaction of the Sublime Porte, he was forthwith re-appointed police-officer of the district.

Now it is scarcely fair play, and shows, we think, a want of liberality to speak of the Bedouin tribes which the Agha keeps in bounds as thieves. They are a race of men who have retained the manners and customs of the earliest ages of tradition to a far greater extent than any other people; and almost every traveller who has lived amongst them will admit that, although they exact tribute and pillage their enemies, they are anything but thieves in the common acceptation of the term, but that they are a wandering pastoral people, whose code of honour is paramount with life, and that it is the villagers, and not the Bedouin, who are the dread of travellers. Then again, Agyhil was not reinstated in power because he escaped out of the hands of his jealous enemy, the Pasha of Acre—who brought upon himself not only the enmity of the Bedouins but of all the townspeople of central Galilee, in 1863, by attacking the Agha—but because after Agyhil left his camp on Esdraelon and

retreated to Gaza and the wilderness of Beersheba, the Bedouin tribes refused to obey the new governor; and the Turks were glad to recall the man who had succeeded in staying the massacre of Jews and Christians in Galilee, which, spreading from Damascus and the Lebanon, threatened to become universal in Palestine only a few years before. His words on that occasion are still in the mouths of many of the inhabitants of Tiberias and Nazareth: "My mother was a Jewess, and my father was a Christian; whosoever touches either, let his deed be upon his own head;" and in our opinion we ought to respect such a man, in a wild, semi-civilized country, rather than term him a thief. However, Dr. Macleod has only repeated the careless gossip of dragomen, for had he been the Agha's guest only for a week he would have learned his character better. But, on the whole, "Eastward" will be an ornament to many a drawing-room table, and if the engravings are not first-rate and lack individuality—a circumstance which often happens in plates taken from photographic pictures—the type and covers are unexceptionable, and it is a very pretty Sunday book.

THE GRAHAMES.

The Grahames of Bessbridge House, Dyddborough.
By Mrs. Trafford Whitehead. 2 Vols.
(Chapman & Hall.)

"*DUM SPIRO SPERO*" is the motto on the title-page; so we went on, page after page, breathing and hoping, till we got to the end of the second volume, and then we continued to breathe, but hope had come to a dead lock. Not that we were led at the outset to expect much. Mrs. Whitehead's style, though fluent, is somewhat verbose and commonplace; but then she introduced us into a new phase of aristocratic life, where the upper servants of the household were removed from an apparent equality and intercourse with its head by the very faintest line of demarcation only; and so we went on to the end, hoping to find what it all could mean.

In the opening chapter we are introduced to a family group of young people in a pretty bit of pastoral scenery, enjoying the woodlands in an eclogue kind of style, as it were; the most youthful maiden of the party, at the tender age of fourteen, having won the heart of her handsome cousin, William Grinelle, a youth of twenty-two. Love-tokens and vows are exchanged, and years separate the friends of that happy time. William goes to seek his fortune in foreign lands, and Mary Martin, after a while, is thrown on the world by the death of her uncle, whose speculations had swallowed up his niece's fortune of 20,000*l.*, along with his own property. A situation as lady-housekeeper in Mr. Grahame's family, at Bessbridge House, is offered to her; but her duties also embrace those of governess to the son and heir, a child of four years old. Cecil has hitherto been intrusted to the tender care of Miss Nixon, the under-housekeeper, a pattern of propriety, without crinoline, whose forte was house-linen and jams.

Lady Lavinia Grahame and her husband live almost apart. She is beautiful, but cold as marble and insensate as ice. Mr. Grahame is eminently handsome. Miss Martin says—for the story is an autobiography—that she "never altogether understood his eyes; sometimes they said one thing, sometimes another." All eyes, however, we imagine, do so, if they say anything at all; but these eyes, *par excellence*, were "proud, glaring, gentle, tender, cold, cruel, but ever the same, as far as one indication went—that of an unflinching and indomitable will. At one time, if I had been asked, was he handsome? I should have said 'Certainly not,' and wondered how it was possible. The next time—perhaps in an hour—I should have said, 'He is so handsome, that I dare not look at him.'" The household of Mr. Grahame is not an easy riddle to unravel—that is to say, the position of the officials is

not clearly defined as regards the *dramatis personæ* of the tale. There are Mrs. Witton and a Jane Newton, who speak a strange jargon of cockneyism and ignorance; as also a Mrs. Gerge, the mother of the steward, who does not reside at Bessbridge House, but dwells with his mother, "Simeon does," and is given to a predilection for "tata pie" and "onions." This Mr. Gerge becomes enamoured of Miss Martin, and offers himself and his five hundred a-year to the young lady in course of time; but she prefers her "thirty pounds and a dependent situation to the splendours laid at her feet."

Previous to this, however, Miss Martin discovers that her cousin William has returned, and that Lady Lavinia Grahame is the object of his affections, instead of herself. A meeting between the frosty wife and the gallant youth took place in the church porch of L—, to which shelter Miss Martin was hastening to escape a heavy storm. Finding it pre-occupied, she retreats unobserved, and witnesses the conduct of the interview, of which she says, "If this was a stolen interview, in truth Mr. Grahame might have been there to see it." Afterwards the housekeeper infers, from evidences of suppressed passion on the part of Lady Lavinia, evinced in shattered works of art of great value, as well as glass shades, that the icy reserve of the "earl's daughter" concealed but the throes of the inner whirlpool, a "Hecle covered with snow."

Cecil is taken dangerously ill. Miss Martin and Miss Nixon watch the child unremittingly, till the lady-housekeeper at last, worn out with fatigue, falls asleep, but not so soundly but that, as in a dream, she hears the conversation of two persons, who are contemplating the sleeping child and nurse. In this way she becomes acquainted with Mr. Grahame's feelings towards her; and when the child recovers, and Lady Lavinia dies, the housekeeper, young as she is, remains at her post with this knowledge. But she ignores it, and regards all his inconsistencies, his wayward, respectful devotion to herself, with a timid wonder and assumed unconsciousness of his very palpable meaning, as dangerous as it was unbecoming in a high-minded, high-principled woman to encourage by her wilful blindness. It is quite evident that Mary Martin is to be the second Mrs. Grahame, and of course after some time that happy result is attained. How and by what means the reader must be left to find out.

No doubt there is a very large class of girls who from their birth are destined by their parents to occupy the poor gentility and drudgery of governesses and lady-housekeepers. Such pictures of aristocratic life as that portrayed in the pages of "The Grahames of Bessbridge House" can only be intended for them, or for readers of so morbid an appetite that they fancy what they see in print must be a correct delineation of the life in the sphere above them. If that kind of thing satisfies them, they will find the usual enjoyment in the perusal of "The Grahames of Bessbridge House," the style of which is throughout that of an average circulating library novel. Our chief objection to the book is the laxity of principle and license accorded by the author to the heroine, to retain her position in Lady Lavinia's household one moment after she had become possessed of the knowledge that Lady Lavinia's husband, during his wife's lifetime, had not scrupled to express his admiration of his lady-housekeeper to a third party.

Awake or Dreaming? A Dog's Story. Written and Illustrated by the Brothers Wagtail. (Day & Son, Limited.)—The author of "Rab and His Friends" has set the fashion of dog story-books; and a very good fashion it is as long as there are boys and girls who delight in doggies, and say "tell me another" as soon as ever a puppy tale has run off one's tongue. The illustratress of the present book has evidently entered into the mysteries of puppy and old-dog life as thoroughly as many of her sister artists have into baby life. Her puppies on pages 5 and 10 are capital, and

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Gyp's capers on page 6 are a great joke. The pose of the spaniel on page 35 eyeing the tinker's cur is excellent, and the foreshortening of the dog on the opposite page is very cleverly done. We cannot say as much of the near wheeler of the four-in-hand drag on page 11, the pony's low shoulder of the lithograph opposite page 28, or the tinker's hand on page 26, good as his face is. There are one or two more blemishes due, we imagine to the wood-cutter, and some white faces to the amateur who wants a little more practice in knowing how sketches turn into woodcuts; but, on the whole, the illustrations of the work do the lady-artist very great credit. Of the story that accompanies the drawings little in praise can be said. Is one of the Brothers Wagtail a man? Assuredly he, or she, does not talk children's language, and when he has a good point, like the young lady turning out of bed in her white fur, does not know how to put it well. He must recollect that there are jolly old dogs as well as merry young ones, and must brighten up, and be simpler and sharper before he tells his next tale. The present one is the history of a water-spaniel, who was borne in some hay, carried off as a present, helped the laundrymaid to dry his mistress's best petticoat, balanced sticks on his nose, walked on his hind legs, retrieved, found his master's lost pocket-book, and helped to discover a thief, was made much of, and then slighted for a lap-dog, and at last made great friends with a little boy. If any parent or uncle will read the story himself, and then tell it to his little people in their own tongue, showing them the pictures the while, he will have a running accompaniment of chickabiddy's clucks,—“Yes, how nice, oh! I should like to have one; what a dear old dog!” &c.—such as rejoice a soft-hearted father's ears, and make him say thanks to one Brother Wagtail at least. We hope to see the book in the home of many a child.

Overcrowding: the Evil and its Remedy. (Longmans, Green, & Co.)—Those interesting themselves in the improvement of the homes of the working classes would do well in procuring a copy of this pamphlet and in mastering its contents. The writer, who need not have demurred to give his name, passes in review rapidly, but with remarkable perspicuity and earnestness, all that has been done since Prince Albert brought the question palpably before the country in 1851, by the erection of his famous “model cottages,” down to the formation of the “Improved Industrial Dwellings Company, Limited,” with Lord Stanley as chairman. As might have been seen in a late City article of the *Times* newspaper, this company is commercially prosperous. Its establishment, we are informed, was the result of Mr. Alderman Waterlow's success in the erection of “Langbourn Buildings, Finsbury,” by which he reduced to a practical demonstration what Prince Albert always thought the grand desideratum in philanthropic effort of this kind—viz., “the possibility of building healthy and commodious houses for the working classes on conditions that would be commercially remunerative.” To Alderman Waterlow, then, be all praise; and we cordially agree with Lord Ebury in awarding him the high honour of having triumphantly solved the problem. The pamphlet is accompanied by ground plans and elevations; and, from its high moral tone, thorough grasp of the subject, and able literary exposition thereof, we have little doubt but that “*Overcrowding: the Evil and its Remedy*,” will become a handbook with all those philanthropists who truly understand their vocation.

The Songs and Ballads of Cumberland: To which are added Dialect and other Poems, with Biographical Sketches, Notes, and Glossary. Edited by Sidney Gilpin. (Routledge & Sons).—We like the Cumberland Songs a good deal better than the Lancashire ones which we reviewed a fortnight back. There is more go and more variety in them; the hill-air makes them fresher, and among the writers of them is William Wordsworth. Another great merit of the Dialect Songs is their pictures of country manners; and it is to these that the reader of three hundred years hence will first turn with the greatest zest, just as we do now to *Eleanor Rummyng* when we take up a volume of Skelton. That wonderful country-inn scene in 1520 is fairly matched by such sketches as the *Worton murry-neet*, or *Upshot*, by Mark Lonsdale, in the volume before us. Anderson and Stagg, too, have some capital descriptive pieces of fairs,

suppers, country-fun, and we do not wonder that Mr. Gilpin feels, now he has

... got tem put in prent,
Aw England cannot bang them.

We certainly cannot recollect a better collection. On Miss Blamire, however, whom the editor puts next to Wordsworth, we do not set a very high value, though she did write “An ye shall walk in silk attire;” the sentiment of that has given more than its worth to the song as poetry, and the rest of her work seems to us not up even to that popular favourite. Mr. Graves's hunting song, “D'ye ken John Peel,” must owe its fame to its tune, too, we should think, for a verse like the following should hardly be found in what is claimed as one of the best hunting songs in the world:—

D'ye ken that bitch whose tongue is death?
D'ye ken her sons of peerless faith?
D'ye ken that fox, with his last breath,
Curs'd them all as he died in the morning?

But enough of objection. It is many years since we read Stagg's volume of Poems, and Anderson's, where good and bad were mixed up together, and we are very glad to have in the present selection the good alone, with the verses of many other writers new to us. While the author of “Joe and the Geologist” lives, we shall rest assured that the Cumberland dialect will be well represented in verse as well as prose, though we suppose he cannot love to describe the roaring scenes at weddings and the like that his predecessors witnessed—

O, see a weddin' I've been at!
Deil bin, what cap'rin', feichtin', vap'rin'!
Priest and clerk, and aw, got drunk—
Rare deins there were there:
The Thuirshy lads, they fit the best;
The Worton weavers drank the meast;
But Brough-seyde lairds bang'd aw the rest
For braggin' o' their gear,
And singin',

Whurzy whum, whuddle whum,
Whalty, whalty, wha, wha, wha.

This is Anderson's. Stagg's description of the *Bridewain* (which is a subscription wedding-feast, and endowment of the bride, on a poor young couple's marriage,) is greater fun still; and the descriptions of the fairs, the dances, the country girls' loves and notions, are full of amusement. But to all views of poor men's lives there is a background of dark cloud; all working-men poets feel its shadow, and make their readers feel it too. What is to be the end of most of their class? The workhouse: and we have it of course in the present volume:—

We're auld and feeble now, Jean,
Our days will nat be lang;
They've telt me at the Board, Jean,
To workhouse we mun gang;
My heart was lyke to break, Jean,
But them I could not bleame;
They said it was not law, Jean,
To give us bread at heame.

The glossary to this volume is scanty, and there is one comical mistake in it, on the word *byzen*. A young Cumberland man from the country comes to town, and is taken in by a white-faced lass, who accosts him, and makes very free both with him and his money. “*Twas a shem and a byzen*,” says he. This Mr. Gilpin interprets “Shame, and besides a sin;” the word *bizen* being apparently a corruption of “*By a sin*—i.e., besides a sin.” Really, the word is good Anglo-Saxon—*bysen*, an example; and in its simple form, or its compound *forbysen*, is in constant use in Early English. Another Anglo-Saxon word, *edwoitan*, to reproach, blame, upbraid—our *twit*—has also suffered from popular etymology, we suspect, and appears as *od white* (p. 273); though here the *od* may stand for God, and the *white* represent the simple A.-S. verb *witan*, to blame; but at p. 299, where *od wheyte* (leet on him!) is used as a substantive, the compound word must be meant. The dialect is rich in reduplicated words; in good forms like *brong*, for brought; in old English words, as *lythe*, listen, *belive*, quickly, &c.; and the volume altogether is one that should find a place on the shelf of every reader of poetry and student of manners, customs, and language.

History of the Anti-Slavery Measures of the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth United States Congresses, 1861-65. By Henry Wilson. (Boston: Walker, Fuller, & Co.)—When we consider how tremendously important to the United States and to the world at large were the measures with which the Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Congresses had to deal, any reliable book tending to throw light upon the period ought to be gladly welcomed. The present volume has reached a second edition, which is a considerable revision and enlargement of the first. The author's object is to contribute to the history of this

stirring epoch by following faithfully the course of anti-slavery legislation; and to do it the more effectually, he not only quotes the words and reproduces the ideas of the leading actors in the great drama, but in many instances he gives their entire speeches. This enables the reader to stand at the proper point of sight, and to draw his own independent conclusions. Wherever the author speaks in his own proper person, it is with the fervour of the partizan; but in his narrative he is perfectly judicial, and we regard his book as a highly creditable contribution to the history of his country.

A Short History of English Literature. By Thomas Arnold, B.A. In 2 Vols. Vol. I. (Murby; Simpkin & Co.) The only thing we have to find fault with in this unpretending handbook is that it is too good. Indeed, if it were not relieved by copious extracts from writers who are familiar to every one, we should have to pronounce it a very learned and valuable essay upon a high branch of the philosophy of civilization. Something of this appears to have occurred to the author when writing his preface. But he has avoided the snare, as we have already said. Very judiciously the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods are briefly indicated, and no more; and translations are given of the selections from Layamon and the *Ormulum*. The importance of Chaucer has secured nearly a whole chapter; but there is no blind adoration for a poet most are contented to read only when called upon. This first volume does not bring us beyond the Elizabethan age; but it has its separate index, and its alphabetical list of extracts, which enable others besides mere students to refresh themselves with little snacks of scarce authors. Mr. Arnold so thoroughly understands his task that we are content to call attention to what he is about. If he is not rewarded by a wide circulation, we must conclude the taste for these studies is exceedingly limited.

The Student's Chart of English Literature. Arranged by J. W. Morris, F.L.S. (Longmans.)—The letterpress of Mr. Arnold may be illustrated by this ingenious chart. It consists of nine quarto pages, divided by vertical lines into spaces representing centuries, and by others into periods of ten years, the horizontal lines denoting the length of life. The authors selected are those who supply important links in the History of Letters. A glance at the book will show its value, and the plan has already earned the approbation of teachers, when employed in the construction of the corresponding “Chart of English History.”

L'Exposition Universelle de 1867. Guide de l'Exposant et du Visiteur, avec les documents officiels, un plan, et une vue de l'Exposition. (Hachette and Cie.)—The publishers of this guide-book are resolved to be first in the field; and the centralization of authority in France, which stifles contending interests, enables them to put forth thus early an almost official programme of the Paris Exhibition of next year. The Palace is to be erected in the centre of the Champ de Mars, and will occupy nearly thirty acres of ground. The principal entrance is on the quay, exactly opposite the Pont d'Iéna. All we can say of its exterior form is that it will be round, for it is to be neither elliptic nor circular. The object of this is to avoid corners, which are obnoxious both to visitors and exhibitors. Nor will there be any stairs to mount. It is all laid out as one vast ground-floor. As far as position goes, it will be at once understood from this that one country can have no advantage over the other. For further information we can unhesitatingly refer to M. Hachette's publication. There is an excellent account of Exhibitions; and the reasons are given why the present plan has been adopted. An appendix contains all the regulations and supplemental regulations.

THE LATE DR. WHEWELL.

DR. WHEWELL died on Tuesday last, at twenty minutes past five p.m., at the Lodge, Trinity College. He was born at Lancaster in 1795. His parentage was humble, and it is said that his father intended to devote him to his own handicraft, but he was sent to the Free Grammar School of Lancaster, and proceeded in due course to Trinity College. His position in the Mathematical Tripos as Second Wrangler, followed by the acquisition of the Second Smith's Prize, proved the possession of the intellectual powers which he cultivated up to the day when he suffered the accident which has since proved

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fatal. In due time he became Fellow and Tutor of his college. In 1828 he was elected Professor of Mineralogy, succeeding Dr. Clarke. It was in connexion with the British Association (of which he was President in 1841) that he drew up the "Reports on the Tides," and on the "Mathematical Theories of Heat, Magnetism, and Electricity," which rank among the first of his mathematical productions. Before this he was chosen to write the "Bridgewater Treatise on Astronomy," which perhaps suggested to him the "History of the Inductive Sciences," published in 1837, followed in 1840 by the "Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences," which are undoubtedly the works by which he will be best known in after years. In 1832 he resigned the Professorship of Mineralogy, but in 1838 accepted the Professorship of Moral Philosophy, which he held till 1855. In 1841, during the Ministry of Sir Robert Peel, he was nominated to the Mastership of Trinity, on the resignation of Dr. Wordsworth. As Professor of Moral Philosophy he founded prizes for the encouragement of that study, which he himself always pursued with avidity. He edited Sir James Mackintosh's "Introduction to the Study of Ethical Philosophy," published a couple of volumes of his own on "Morality," and among his latest productions were some translations of the "Ethical Dialogues of Plato." Besides University text-books, he published "Lectures on Political Economy," an edition of the works of Richard Jones on "Political Economy," "Architectural Notes on Churches in France and Germany," and "Some Specimens of English Hexameters," published in a book containing similar efforts by Sir John Herschel, the late Archdeacon Hare, and Mr. Lockhart.

Dr. Whewell was twice married, and twice a widower. His first wife was Miss Marshall, a sister of Lady Monteagle, and he caused a mortuary chapel in the cemetery at Cambridge to be built after his own designs as a memorial of his affection. She died in 1854, and he married, secondly, in 1858, the widow of Sir Gilbert Affleck, a sister of the late Mr. Leslie Ellis, himself a Fellow of Trinity, whose virtues and whose rare abilities are treasured by his friends, and not least when alive by Dr. Whewell. His second wife died on the 1st of April last. The Mastership is in the gift of the Crown, and is worth about 3,000*l.* a-year.

MISCELLANEA.

THE loyal town of Wareham has a town-hall with a cupola in a tottering state, the estimated repairs of which will cost some 7*l.* or 8*l.* Wareham, if not a wealthy town, is a *cheeky* one. The Mayor sent a begging-letter to the Prince of Wales to prevail upon him to incur the cost, and the Prince, as might have been expected, refers them to the good feeling of the inhabitants of Wareham to raise the paltry sum amongst themselves.

PROFESSOR CHARLES KINGSLEY would extirpate hares and rabbits as vermin and destructive animals. Writing to a friend at Newcastle on the subject of the Game Laws, he says: "For my own part I wish to heaven there was not a hare or rabbit in England. Pheasants and partridges do good to the farmer and not harm. But the present overbreeding (I can't call it preserving) of pheasants offers a terrible temptation to many fellows, and must be put down by public opinion. Meanwhile, the only cure will be to abolish the Game Laws, and put the beasts of the wood on the same footing as other property. But I say that if I were a squire I would never breed or feed a single pheasant. I would exterminate hares and rabbits. If my farmers chose to keep a few hares for coursing, let them; and then I would have (if I cared for it, which I don't) capital shooting, and my tenants glad to see me. That is done on many estates now, and the consequences are excellent morally, and much more real sport obtained."

THE *Boston (U.S.) Traveller* places on record the copy of the most extraordinary draft on a Treasury warrant ever issued: "Draught 2,950 on Treasury warrant. Treasury of the United States. No. 1,954. Washington, Jan. 8, 1866. At sight pay to Erastus Foote, collector and disbursing agent, or order, two cents. F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of United States. Recorded, Jan. 8, 1866. S. B. Colby, Registrar of the Treasury, Assistant-Treasurer, U.S., Boston, Mass. On the document there were seven signatures." This is surely the most remarkable instance of the "Penny wise" adage on record.

FREE-TRADE is not popular in America. The *New York Tribune* of the 9th ult. says: "La-

bour is low, capital is scarce, and interest is high, in every country on the globe which exports raw products. Turkey, Mexico, Russia, Ireland, Canada, and South America, are solemn witnesses to the truth of this law of economy. It is an inexorable law, without variableness or shadow of turning. In all those countries which consume their raw products, land and labour rise in price, capital becomes plenty, and interest steadily falls. This, too, is one of God's unchangeable laws. Massachusetts and Connecticut, Belgium, France, and Germany, joyfully witness to its truth and beneficence. Athens, with her mining and manufacturing, governed Greece; Carthage, largely engaged in manufactures, controlled the commerce of half the then discovered globe; Holland was mistress of the commercial world in those days when the people of the Rhine cities boasted that 'they bought of the stupid Englishman skins at a sixpence, and paid for them in tails at a shilling.' The English, wiser grown, have got into the place of the Dutch in this relation to skins and tails, and preach free trade to the world. Their gospel is—'Let the British do your manufacturing; confine yourselves to raising raw products, sell them to us, and take your pay in finished goods.' If the United States have yet any hankering to swap skins at sixpence for tails at a shilling, they had better fold up the stars and stripes and return to British colonial vassalage. For that trade which is British Free Trade will make them slaves—slaves in dependence, slaves in poverty."

DR. CRAVEN, the medical adviser of Mr. Jeff. Davis since his capture, according to the *New York papers*, was on the 7th ult. mustered out of service. He represents the health and spirits of his late charge as excellent; who being furnished with the various papers and magazines, keeps well posted upon the current topics of the day. The cell of the prisoner was accessible at all times to the doctor; but little conversation, however, was at any time carried on, though, from remarks dropped from time to time, he appeared resigned to his fate, whatever it may be.

LORD ASHBURNHAM has privately printed a catalogue of the MSS. he has kept so long to himself, in three large thick octavo volumes. We do not hear that any copy has been given to any of our public libraries in England; but one has been sent to the Imperial Library in Paris. Let us hope that Lord Ashburnham will be no exception to the generosity and the performance of duty on the part of his order—qualities which have been so often testified to by authors and editors in a Duke of Devonshire, Earl of Ellesmere, Marquis of Camden, Lord Londesborough, Lord Monson, and many another noble collector.

It is not given to all men to know their own tongue, in its old forms, and the clever M. Paul Meyer, one of the editors of *La Revue Critique*, a French literary weekly, has just shown that he has something to learn of old French. Mr. Skeet, in his edition of *Lancelot of the Laik*, gave some extracts from the French Romance, and in a note remarked that "the word *si* often occurs with a great variety of meanings—viz., I, he; and, also; so, thus &c."—a tolerably safe assertion, we should have thought. M. Meyer, however, was of a different opinion, and in his review of the *Lancelot* said of Mr. Skeet's statement, "c'est très-exagéré; jamais *si*, adverbe ou conjonction, n'a pu avoir le sens d'un pronom." Though it may seem impertinent to affect to teach a Frenchman French, yet the presumption may be excused when we only refer him to his own dictionaries; and if M. Meyer will look to *Burgyn* or *Roquefort*, he will find plenty of instances of *si* in "le sens d'un pronom!"

CHAUCER has been hardly treated by his editors. Since the first editions, which were all from faulty manuscripts, not one editor has taken the trouble to print the poet's works throughout from the best MSS. At last we are to have this done, and to get a text that we can trust. An experienced copier of MSS. has this week gone to Glasgow to read *The Romance of the Rose* with the magnificent unique MS. copy there; Mr. Richard Morris, the editor, reads his text with the London and Oxford MSS.; Mr. Lumly helps with the Cambridge ones; and we shall look forward to the text being worthy of the high reputation of the editor of *Hampole, Genesis and Exodus*, &c. It is to be hoped that the publishers will not spoil the edition by insisting on a wretched list of words with their meanings, instead of a full glossary with references, which might also be published separately, and serve as a dictionary of Chaucer's English. Though meagre vocabularies cost little, they damn books; and the best working edition of

Chaucer should not be docked of the part most essential to its working power. We hear that Mr. E. A. Bond, of the MS. Department of the British Museum, has in his researches come on some *Fresh Traces of Chaucer*, an account of which will in all probability soon appear in some such journal as the *Cornhill* or the *Fortnightly*. Readers who care for our bright old genius should be on the *qui vive* for Mr. Bond's paper.

LAST week we inserted a prospectus of the "Imperial Land Company of Marseilles, Limited," which has obtained possession of several properties in Marseilles, in the aggregate some 5,000,000 square feet, upon which it is proposed to erect a number of large buildings, as detailed in the prospectus, upon a well-considered plan for the improvement of that rapidly-increasing port—a most profitable speculation it would seem, the Company having already resold to a company of builders one portion of the property at a profit of 600,000*l.* The capital is 1,600,000*l.*, in shares of 20*l.* each, the first calls not to exceed 5*l.*, and 10 per cent. interest on the paid-up capital is guaranteed for the first two years.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL, M.P., Professor Fawcett, M.P., and Professor Cairnes, have joined the Italian Committee, which has appealed to the people of Italy for a national subscription on behalf of Mazzini. Mazzini has been elected Deputy for Messina.

THE Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., will take the chair at the annual dinner of the Printers' Corporation, on the 6th of next month.

THE Earl of Derby has presented 20*l.* to the Printers' Pension Fund, in connexion with the Printers' Pension Corporation.

WE understand that the number of subscribers to the Reports of the Council of Law Reporting, the subscription list to which, for the present year, closes on Saturday next, is nearly 3,000.

MR. GEORGE W. MARSHALL, of the Middle Temple, is about to publish by subscription an Index to the Printed Heralds Visitation, which will form a companion volume to Mr. Sims' Index of the Heralds Visitations, contained in the manuscript collections at the British Museum.

PUBLIC opinion should have some weight even with a Commissioner of Police. Good sense would seem to dictate that the prosecution against Mr. Joseph Ferguson, the pianist, of Norwood, for stabbing a policeman in plain clothes, whom he mistook for a garotter, and who is now convalescent, should be withdrawn. The Commissioner, however, intends prosecuting the case at the sessions which commence at the Old Bailey on the 9th of April; and, of course, running the risk of the Grand Jury ignoring the bill, which seems to be by no means an improbable issue. In the meantime, further subscriptions are requested to the Ferguson Defence Fund.

THE *New York Round Table* mentions the death of Artemus Ward, who, with his wife, was recently killed by an oil explosion in Worcester, Mass.

THE late vicar of Greenwich was the Rev. William Aldwin Soames, the younger brother of the historian of the Reformation. The latter held the rectory of Stapleford Tawney, in Essex, and died in 1860.

VICTOR HUGO'S "Travailleurs de la Mer" forms three thick octavo volumes, and so great is the demand for it, that the publishers give a last notice that of the first edition copies can be furnished to subscribers only. The work will be published in a few days. The English translation, under the title of "The Toilers of the Sea," will be published by Messrs. S. Low & Co., about the same time.

THE price of Gesenius's "Thesaurus Lingue Hebræe et Chaldæe Veteris Testamenti" has been reduced from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 1*l.* 15*s.*

THE new volume (LVI., 8 Octobris) of the "Acta Sanctorum Bollandiana," consisting of 1,200 pages in folio, is now ready. Also Vol. X. of the reprint of the original work.

THEY are reprinting at Paris one of the most important works connected with bibliography and literary history: "Histoire Littéraire de la France, par les Religieux Benedictins," the second volume of which is now ready. The original work, by Rivet, Taillandier, and Clemençet, was published in quarto, in twelve volumes, from 1733-1763; and a continuation, by Ginguin and Dom Brial, appeared from 1814 to 1833, in ten volumes. This new edition is edited by M. Paulin Paris, of the Institute. Another work, on a similar subject, to be completed in three volumes octavo, the first of which is just ready, is "Les Epopees Françaises."

Etude sur les Origines et l'Histoire de la Littérature Nationale, by Leon Gautier.

ON Monday week, 19th instant, and nine following days, M. L. Potier will sell, at the Salle Silvestre, in Paris, the curious and valuable library of the late M. A. Farrenc.

MESSRS. GRIFFIN and Co. have published a new edition of Cobbett's "English Grammar," but omit the dedication to Queen Caroline, one of the most nervous specimens of prose writing in the language.

THE *Shilling Magazine* has again changed its publisher. The current number is issued by Messrs. Adams and Francis, of Fleet Street.

THE second number of the monthly Chinese newspaper, the *Flying Dragon*, edited by Professor Summers, has just appeared, illustrated with a map of Europe.

PRINCE SATSUMA, as a wise Japanese ruler, is turning his attention to the manufacture of silks for the English and American markets. The English language is now being taught publicly in Japan, under the sanction of the Government.

THE Tycoon of Japan has made a present to the Emperor Napoleon of 15,000 papers of silkworms' eggs, which have arrived at Marseilles.

IN France the law is, that the dead shall be buried within twenty-four hours after death, the sanitary idea being that, as amongst the poor the dead and the living must occupy the same room for the time, the sooner they are separated the better. But twenty-four hours is a very short period, and a petition has recently been presented to the Senate, praying that the term should be enlarged to forty-eight hours. In supporting the petition, Cardinal Donnet, Bishop of Bordeaux, related the following circumstance: A young priest, in the summer of 1826, fainted in the pulpit, and was pronounced dead. He was laid out, and the Bishop read the *De Profundis* while the coffin was being prepared for the body. All this the "body" heard and listened to, without the power of reply, and so to all the other preparations deep into the night, when a friend who had known the "dead man" from infancy entered the room. His voice aroused some dormant power in the "corpse;" the "dead" recovered vitality, and the next day the young priest preached again from the same pulpit, "and," added the Cardinal, "that young priest, gentlemen, is the same old man who now addresses you." That speech carried conviction with it, and the Senate voted that the petition should be referred to the Minister of the Interior, which is tantamount to its being granted.

MR. BENTLEY announces for immediate publication, Dean Hook's Fifth and Sixth Volumes of "The Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury," concluding the life of Cranmer. The fourth and concluding volume, of Dr. Mommsen's "History of Rome," translated by the Rev. W. Pitt Dickson; Curtius's "History of Greece," three vols.; the Hon. Miss Eden's "Travels in India," with illustrations; "The Naturalist in British Columbia and Vancouver's Island," by J. R. Lord, Esq., F.Z.S., with numerous illustrations; "Charles Townshend: Wit and Statesman," by Percy Fitzgerald, M.A.; "Modern Eccentrics," by John Timbs, author of "Club Life of London," &c.; "After the Storm: or, North America in 1865," by J. E. H. Skinner, author of "The Tale of Danish Heroism;" "The Life of Beethoven," by Dr. Nohl, translated by Miss Bunnett; "A Posthumous Work," by Silvio Pellico, translated by Lady Georgiana Fullerton; and "Anderleigh Hall," a novel in verse, by Edmund Nugent. Mr. Bentley also announces among other novels: "All in the Dark," by J. Sheridan Le Fanu, two vols.; "Plain John Orpington," by the author of "Lady Flavia," and "Lord Lynn's Wife;" and "The Hidden Sin," three vols.

A reprint of the March number of the *Temple Bar Magazine* has been called for.

THE City of London Working Classes Industrial Exhibition, at Guildhall, was inaugurated by the Lord Mayor, on Tuesday last.

CAPTAIN GRONOW has left a widow and four young children utterly destitute. A subscription has been set on foot for their benefit. Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., of Cornhill and Pall Mall, and Messrs. Cox and Greenwood, of Craig's Court, will receive subscriptions.

THE German papers, in their obituary of Mr. Gibson, one and all, call him "der berühmteste Englische Bildhauer neuerer Zeit und ohne Zweifel einer der genialsten Künstler unseres Jahrhunderts"—"the most celebrated English

sculptor of our day, and, beyond doubt, one of the most talented artists of the present century"—which we have much pleasure in placing on record as an antidote to a somewhat ignorant and spiteful estimate of his powers which appeared in the pages of a contemporary.

THE liberty of the press and the liberty of the subject are not, it would appear, very popular with General Grant, and his circular to his Department commanders, expresses, unequivocally, his determination to "suppress disloyal newspapers." In accordance with that desire, he suppressed the *Richmond Examiner*, but the President revoked the order upon the appeal of Mr. Pollard, and the paper has reappeared, Mr. Pollard sending in a written paper to the President in these words: "Mr. Pollard, of the *Richmond Examiner*, pledges himself to support your administration hereafter as he has done heretofore;" which seems a parallel case to that of the corporal, raised from the ranks to a subaltern, re-depositing his first olive at the mess-dinner upon his plate, with, "As you were, gentlemen." The general, according to the *New York Tribune*, has placed in the hands of each policeman in Richmond a formidable pair of shears. He has prohibited the wearing of "the grey, adorned with rebel buttons;" so the moment a policeman spies any "unreconstructed rebel in the streets in gilt buttons" he brings his shears into requisition, and confiscates all the gilt buttons as *spolia opima* for the general.

MR. GRANT, President of the Royal Academy, has been elected President of the Artists' Benevolent Fund, in place of Sir C. Eastlake, and Mr. Boxall in place of the late Mr. David Roberts. It is now settled that Mr. Layard will take the chair at the anniversary dinner on the 12th of May.

THE *Glasgow Herald* reports the death of the Rev. William Fleming, Professor of Moral Philosophy in Glasgow University, which took place at the college on Saturday afternoon, at the age of seventy-four. Dr. Fleming had been connected with the University for upwards of thirty-five years. In 1831 he succeeded the Rev. Dr. Gavin Gibb as Professor of Oriental Languages, and in 1839 was appointed to the Chair of Moral Philosophy in room of Professor Mylne.

THE syndics have made their twelfth annual report respecting the Cambridge University Library. Borrowers do not seem always to return the books, as it appears that many books have been lost during the years that have elapsed since the preceding inspection. The fund for the additional buildings, on November 3, 1865, consisted of 2,107l. 9s. 2d., to which the year's balance of 973l. 7s. 11d. has now to be added. The number of books taken out during the year was 20,253; many valuable presents have been received, and duplicates have been exchanged for American books with Messrs. Stevens and Co., the American booksellers, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. The catalogue of the Strype MSS. is nearly completed, and that of the Patrick and Baker MSS. is far advanced. The importance of proceeding more rapidly with the catalogue of the printed books, and other prospective events of the library, have led the syndics to recommend to the Senate that the amount of the library subscription be increased from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per head for each quarter.

THE Paris papers record the death of the Bishop of Arras, of apoplexy, on Monday last. Monseigneur Paris was born in Orleans in 1795. He was ordained priest in 1819, and subsequently taught rhetoric in several of the seminaries of his diocese. He was appointed vicar of St. Paul d'Orleans, and soon after became parish-priest of Gien. In 1834, being then only thirty-nine years of age, he was raised to the episcopate as Bishop of Langres, in the Department of the Haute-Marne. He was translated from that see in 1851 to Arras. In 1853 he was named by the Emperor officer of the Legion of Honour. As an author his best known book is his letter to M. Thouvenel, Minister of Foreign Affairs, published in 1860, "Du Spirituel et du Temporel dans l'Eglise," which attracted considerable attention at the time. He also published some excellent works on the Liturgy, and distinguished himself, on the orthodox side, by several publications in refutation of the school of M. Rénan, asserting the divinity of Christ, and attempting to prove that Free-thinking is opposed to common sense.

WE have just received the catalogue of the library of the late Th. G. Van Lidth de Jeude, Professor of Natural History at the University of Utrecht. It is to be sold by Frederick Muller, of Amsterdam, March 26, &c. The cata-

logue extends to ninety-four pages, and contains a good collection of books. One collection is remarkable. It is an atlas of zoology, comparative anatomy, and botany, made up from plates collected by Van L. de Jeude. It contains about 16,500 plates, with innumerable figures.

WE have received the first number of a comic university periodical, entitled "Mamus," which made its appearance at Cambridge last Saturday.

AT the meeting of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, recently held at Copenhagen, the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Sutherland and Buccleugh, Lords De Grey and Carnarvon, Sir John Lubbock, Bart.; Sir Edmund Head, Bart.; the Rev. Dr. John Wilson, Trinity College, Oxford; and Messrs. Robert Lowe, M.P., and John Louis Fytche, F.S.A., were elected co-founders, and Mr. Edward William Braybrooke, F.S.A., a Fellow of the Society.

IT is announced that the April meeting of the Archaeological Institute has been postponed for the convenience of members from the 6th of that month to the 13th.

THE decay of the stone of the Houses of Parliament has again been brought before the Commons by Mr. Tite, who had hoped that the decay would in time arrest itself, and that the wounds would skin over. A partial change of that kind has taken place, but it appears that the decay has set in again, owing to the recent heavy rains. Mr. Cowper was unable to suggest any remedy, but he stated that Mr. Abel, of the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, was engaged on a series of experiments on the western front of Henry VII.'s Chapel, with the view to the prevention of the absorption of moisture. The new works now in progress at the Clock Tower are to be carried out in the same stone as the other part, but Mr. Cowper assured the House that every possible care should be taken to select the best stone from the quarry.

IN the House of Commons, on Friday week, Colonel Sykes asked the President of the Board of Trade if any and what arrangements were being made for taking systematic and permanent meteorological observations, either at the Board of Trade or at the Greenwich or Kew Observatories, for British objects; and whether foreign Governments would be invited to co-operate by causing simultaneous meteorological observations to be made with a view to obtaining a knowledge of the physical laws which govern atmospheric changes. Mr. Milner Gibson said, in reply, that after the death of Admiral Fitzroy, it was thought desirable to refer the question of the future arrangements of this department to a committee of inquiry, the members of which were to be named by the Admiralty, the Board of Trade, and the Royal Society. That had been done, and the committee was on the point of making its report. Until it had been received and considered, it would be impossible to give a satisfactory reply to the question.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"CALVES-HEAD CLUB."

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—In the current number of *Fraser* there is an article on "Clubs," in which the writer charges the author of "Club Life in London" with frequently "blundering" his anecdotes.

It behoves the critic who prefers such a charge to take greater heed to his own steps. But the writer in question has himself perpetrated a blunder of a rather curious sort, and quite as bad as any of Mr. Timbs's. Describing the anniversary ceremonials of the notorious "Calves-Head Club," on the 30th of January, he says: "After the table-cloth was removed a copy of the *Icon Basilike* was produced and burnt," &c. To any one who had ever glanced at "a copy of the *Icon Basilike*," the question must have occurred, what possible appropriateness there could have been in selecting that volume for incineration under the circumstances? But the fact is that the authority whence the writer derived his materials simply mentions that, after dinner, one of the members "presented an *Icon Basilike*"—evidently meaning an effigy of the Sovereign—a sort of Royal "Guy," in short—"which was with great solemnity burnt upon the table." In this instance, at all events, Mr. Timbs has the advantage, as he quotes correctly and escapes falling into the ridiculous blunder of his critic.

J.

THE READER.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1866.

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

LORD MACAULAY says somewhere there is no spectacle so ridiculous as that of the British public in one of its occasional fits of morality. As a rule, people run away with each other's wives, and commit other social eccentricities, without incurring any particular reprobation. But every now and then we bestir ourselves; we are resolved to show that we are not like the French, or other nations, but that we really are a moral people. We select some person, certainly not worse, probably much less to blame, than many, as a victim. He is driven out of society, left to die broken-hearted, and our virtue goes quietly to rest for many years to come. To compare small things with great, a still more ridiculous spectacle is presented by the Conservative Club in one of its very rare fits of pseudo-political enthusiasm. That body enjoys a sleepy, dreamy kind of existence. It does not keep the late hours of its parent, the Carlton. No one who traverses its apartments on the eve of a general election would perceive any indications that he was in the heart of a political organization. During the elections themselves, there is less excitement shown than in many a lay club where some particular event is personally interesting to its own brotherhood. But every now and then this torpor is exchanged for an hysterical activity. Strange faces are seen in the hall and the committee-room. Live lords come down from the Carlton. The rumour goes that they are horrified at the philosophical indifference of some of the members to the claims of party—that they are resolved to vindicate the original principles on which the society was established. Some individual is to be selected as an example. If he is a retiring person, not known to possess a large circle of friends, that will be the very man. The victim once chosen, some overt act is discovered by the detectives on the Committee. The honour of the Club is vindicated. Other members may vote for whom they please, as before, and the Conservative Club can put on its night-cap, and sleep the sleep of the just. The victims of the Committee, to judge from the instance of the late Lord Chancellor, do not die broken-hearted. They generally imitate that Roman gentleman named "Mill," who, when he was expelled from the Senate, retired to enjoy his oysters in a better place. There, at his leisure, he can reflect upon the unparalleled eloquence of the hon. gentleman who moved his expulsion; the manly indignation of the Noble Lord who could not sit still under the epithet of "detective," which was vigorously claimed by another of his colleagues, as his proudest distinction; on the business capacities and the exquisite urbanity of the other Noble Lord in the chair, supported, and, we may say, prompted, by the polished Secretary, on whose original and familiar epistle to Mr. Hopkinson, as published in the *Morning Post*, and shortly to be read in a Law Court, is set the stamp of a more than Ciceronian elegance.

On the present occasion, the affair has

its serious as well as its comic side. It matters little to the gentleman in question whether he uses the newspapers of one Club or another. But it is not a matter of light importance to any society that their governing body shows the will and the power to select one individual out of many others, as a scapegoat for party vengeance. We do not dispute for a moment the propriety of ejecting that man from a society, whose opinions are at open variance with all around him. But this Club has long since fallen away from its first love. The Chief of the party has once been seen to cross its hall since the foundation, but that was on a very special occasion indeed. It was, of course, open to the Club at any time to re-assert its position. Only it should have been done in a different way. If the committee had been seriously desirous of re-establishing a great party organ, they should have moved before the general election, instead of after it. They should have called the members together, when it was known that a dissolution was imminent, and have acknowledged that for some years past, perhaps ever since the events of '46, the allegiance of many to their party had been seriously shaken; that they were resolved for the future to interpret the code of Conservative honour, or law, more strictly. They should have laid down the basis of the new Conservative creed, and designated the only true Conservative leaders. Then they should have declared that no man was to be hurried, or his motives questioned; that due time should be allowed for deliberation; but they should expect every one to consider within himself whether, on this new understanding, he could say that he was still a member of the Conservative party; and anyone who was unable to make such a declaration should, at his leisure, withdraw his name from the Club. This would have been a course worthy of a great party, and of the sanction of some at least of the noblemen and gentlemen who have given their names to the present movement. Nor as it is, can they claim any great triumph. Out of twelve hundred members, after nine months of intrigue and canvassing, and at the most favourable season of the year for their purpose, the committee could muster only one hundred and forty and odd supporters; a number sufficient for their purpose, no doubt, but not sufficient to enable them to assert that all the members of the society, but a suspicious few, have endorsed their action. Most persons are well aware how difficult it is to get up any real opposition to the expressed wishes of a Club committee, on any point which does not interfere with a man's own personal comfort. Nor are we surprised to find that the plea of a wish to pay a mere compliment to intellectual eminence would not have been admitted by thorough-going and disappointed partizans. But we should have expected from such persons a consistent, if narrow policy. And whatever party an Englishman may ultimately belong to, he would wish to find on the other side an honourable foe. We cannot for one moment attribute these petty persecutions to a great party. If it were so, the disgrace of the Conservatives would be complete. For whatever weight might be attached to the purity of party zeal was completely destroyed by the imprudent, though frank, avowal of the creature of the committee who spoke in reply—a gentleman not of the class

usually admitted to a West-end Club, except for their special utility—that though there was nothing to be said for the practice of selecting one as a victim out of many offenders, yet, as the social qualities which the person principally concerned displayed in his defence were not exactly to his taste on this occasion, he thought the committee had made a fortunate hit, and it would be a pity to lose the opportunity of getting rid of him. Need we say more?

STORIES.

THE bewildering number of new magazines, and the amount of material, such as it is, which goes to fill them, is not the least wonder of our time. Besides the leading tale, the piece of poetry, the column of jokes, or the solid article, which nearly all contain, there is usually a short sketch or story, and it is with this branch of periodical catering that we have to deal. If examined closely, these stories indicate a great deal more than would appear on their own showing. First, on the score of antiquity, they can claim priority over the big novel itself, which precedes them in order of place, and is being slowly conducted upon an illustrated career under the direction of a popular author. Before the novel came the novelette—*homunculus* before *homo*. Stories are probably as old as speech, but your novel (we use the word in its ordinary acceptance) always, from its length, required to be booked. The Greeks told stories, and very good ones. Antoninus Diogenes went in for a regular romance—the loves of Dinias and Dyrceyllis; but it possesses nothing in common with our works of fiction, except, of course, the element of tender passion, without which nothing of the kind could move. But the Greek tales were excellent. Even in the Greek Christian times, when Pan was dead, capital adventures were struck out, which, if they dealt rather freely with sacred subjects, one is inclined to condone for their offences on the ground of no harm done. In the middle ages these tales were re-echoed along with others, and enriched, too, with marvels brought from the East, monsters from the North, and plenty of devils from the monastic legends. Then there were the jongleurs, minnesingers, and troubadours, who travelled on the strength of a popular taste for verse stories; but if report speaks true concerning the jongleurs, they added to their *répertoires* an attraction similar to that which brings nightly crowds to the ballet music halls of London. Italy is regarded as the direct source of our novels and novelists. Boccaccio's tales were known under the latter title, and to some Italian stories we are said to be indebted for "The Merchant of Venice" and the "Two Gentlemen of Verona." The middle age narratives were all pretty nearly of one colour, and of rather a high flavour for our generation, but many of them were both clever and caustic. Longfellow gives an excellent imitation or adaptation of one in his "Martin Franc, or the Monk of St. Antony." Our English tales of the Elizabethan age are singularly dull and pointless. After the Restoration they were livelier, when, to paraphrase a hackneyed quotation—

The taste became more Gallic and less nice—but in the days of Queen Anne, under the direction of Mr. Addison, the

stories were mere galvanized abstractions, thinly-disguised allegories, in which Greeks and Romans imparted elegant precepts in the full-bottomed wig of the *Spectator's* period. Nor was the great lexicographer a good story-teller. In the "Rambler," men and women are made to speak language as fine and as improbable as the speeches which the worthy doctor prescribed for his Tory favourites in the House of Commons. Goldsmith, however, was a delightful narrator; the "History of the Philosophic Vagabond" is a gem in this way. Fielding had a heavy manner of going about a story; but Smollett was a master in the craft. When the Della Cruscan gushing spoiled our poetry, stories in that strange tongue appeared in "Amulets" and "Souvenirs." The plates in those books used to be Della Cruscan too,—finical, nerveless, and emasculate. A great improvement took place in the palmy days of *Blackwood*, *Fraser*, and *Bentley*. A sort of Hogarthian humour pervaded the shorter tales, a humour of which the contemporaneous artists caught a fair share of the spirit. Maginn, Thackeray, Barham, and Lockhart were seldom better than when confined to chapters instead of volumes. It is remarkable, indeed, that as stories first gave rise to novels, we may notice that every romantic writer of original power sends up a few pilot balloons, fashioned in his own peculiar style, before venturing the grand ascent. Mr. Dickens felt his ground with *Boz*; and the author of "Vanity Fair" entrusted Michael Angelo Titmarsh with samples of his ware, previous to making his own proper appearance. Here we again claim an argument for our plea that stories precede books. In the late Professor Aytoun's hands the art of story-telling did not degenerate; but for occasional blots of "wut," they would be perfect of their kind. There is real fun in his tales, and fun is the prime characteristic of them. To add another feather to the story-cap, it is said that Poe's wild inventions contain the germs of more than one sensation novel, and that a very clever author who works the sensation department made the discovery at an early period of his literary career. There is some truth, we believe, in this, but not at all enough to make out the least pretext for a charge of plagiarism. It is not easy to meet with a good story now; such a one as Tom Hood or Jerrold could write, such a one as was wont to light up the pages of magazines which erst were disagreeably tinged with political war-paint. Every week tons of periodicals are carted from the news-agents, and sown broadcast over the land, and nearly all contain something in the shape of a novelette. It is well for the makers of those literary confections that our artificial society, with its complicated wants and new passions, supplies them with an inexhaustible quantity of raw material. They have fifty plans for serving the crumpled rose-leaf which interferes with the sybaritism attributed in penny and half-penny papers to the upper classes. They can pile the delicious agony on a foundation as slight as the gossamer trouble which shades the brow of the lovely countess when dear Lord Ernest Adolphus FitzHoward has missed bringing her down to dinner, or, as we ought to say, led her to the scene of festivity. They can be cynical at times, but with that air of killing Don Juanism which re-

minds us of, "Oh, Mr. Snob, how can you be so sarcastic?" In the sentimental vein they have almost come round to Miss Seward again. We have recently seen both pictures and letterpress in a popular monthly, fragrant of the "Forget-me-not" and "Bijou" of our grandmothers. As for stories of the genuine story kind, they are as hard to find as real Madeira. The editors, we suppose, are compelled to accept the rubbish which is shot out on us through dearth of better; the most hopeless thing about these inventions would seem to be, that they show nowhere that "genius in the making," as it were, which years ago resulted in "Pendennis" and "David Copperfield."

THE BLESSINGS OF POVERTY.*

IF the season of the year, which the ordinances of the Church have set apart for the special exercise of mortification and denial of self, has been productive of a satisfactory amount of creature discomfort, it has also, in spite of the severe intentions of conscientious ritualists, indirectly contributed to promote the worldly interest and well-being of at least one section of the community. The Act of Parliament passed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which, for the better development of the fisheries, prescribed a diet of fish throughout the period of Lent, has not been unattended by an influence decidedly beneficial to those, whose avocation it is to vend by retail what the fisheries supply. Penitential rites have thus proved the means of private aggrandizement; and, if good cannot proceed from evil, still, the humiliation of the many has resulted in the profit of a few. It is but fair that this kind of compensation should exist; and, indeed, such a system seems to pervade all nature. The blessings of poverty have been a favourite theme with various ascetic sages. Necessity is a prolific parent; for how much—it is wisely argued—that the world could never have afforded to lose are we indebted to her alone? There is, of course, something to be said on both sides of the question; but it is generally admitted by the thoughtful that, if a moderate competence is attended by a curse, the "*res angusta domi*," is very often an especial boon. If there exist persons so misguided as to prefer the evil lot of comfortable circumstances, they labour under a delusion, and there the matter ends. There is a romance of poverty, had people only the eyes to see it. The philosophic mind will refuse to be disturbed by the stupidity of servants, or vexed by the appearance of a badly-cooked dinner. Such domestic reverses will afford a favourable opportunity for indulging in a few speculations on the frailty of human nature, as exhibited in the race of kitchen-maids and cooks. If only the practical element be combined with the philosophic, a far more materially profitable result may ensue. What can be nobler than to hold out one's own experience as a beacon-light to guide distressed fellow-sufferers through the perplexed paths of domestic management with straitened means? and how can the duty owed to one's neighbour and oneself be more satisfactorily performed, than when the fulfilment of this task meets

* "Comfort for Small Incomes." By Mrs. Warren, Author of "How I Managed My House on Two Hundred Pounds a-Year," &c. (Published at the Office of the *Ladies' Treasury*, 12 Ave Maria Lane.)

with the substantial acknowledgment which grateful publishers and a grateful public have it in their power to bestow? Thus, those to whom life may seem little more than a very Lent, for the abnegation of self which it necessitates, may even on the sternest of their Fridays catch fitful glimpses of a harvest which is suggestive rather of the generosity of Christmas. Poverty is no longer a curse, but a blessing, to be hailed in much the same way as the grateful fishmongers will greet the advent of those forty days of penitential abasement which the Church rubric ordains.

We are at best poor, weak creatures, sadly dependent for our comfort upon mere carnal gratifications. "Those who suffer from indigestion," we are told, "are always cross; they cannot help it; it is the natural effect of a cause. When one badly-cooked meal presses upon another, a man cannot be amiable; his heart has become stone." Since this is the momentous truth, it needs not argument to show how laudable and virtuous is the endeavour to improve the diet, and consequently the heart of humanity. The regeneration of the world is, after all, to be effected through the kitchen. Pots and pans may be thought humble instruments, but they are not to be despised on this account. When the joints are uniformly done, when there is no more indigestion in the world, then there will be no more stony hearts. Men will no longer close their bowels of compassion against one another; the lion will lie down with the lamb, and the millennium may be expected. A treatise on cookery, therefore, deserves a far higher rank than that to which it might at first sight appear to have a claim. We must, we are told, bear in mind the grand principle, that "there is nothing in this earth so small that it may not produce great things." Our life is made up of trifles, and if we would be happy and wise, each minutest detail of the kitchen must be diligently watched. "*Nihil putavit a se alienum*" must be the motto of the perfect house-wife. "It is not beneath a woman's dignity to superintend the cookery of her kitchen;" and she must exercise "a careful eye over coals, cinders, and bacon-fat." There is, indeed, nothing so insignificant that it is not a fit object for the exercise of feminine surveillance, as Mrs. Warren's volume satisfactorily shows. The lady who has to direct a household with a decidedly limited income, can hardly be said to occupy a loftier position than that of an upper servant without wages. She has to mould the roughest of material into working shape; she must combine the discretion of Solomon with the patience of Job; she must tolerate human nature in its roughest and most unattractive guise. "Young persons," who seem resolute that nothing shall break through their impenetrable mental density, must be developed into accomplished handmaids. Hungry husbands, whose occupations entail a reckless irregularity, must be supplied with something to appease their appetites, at whatever hour they present themselves; and the much-enduring wife is exhorted to intrude none of her domestic grievances into the interchange of conjugal confidences. "Comfort for Small Incomes" is the alluring title of the manual, which, to the results of experience, adds a variety of precepts for the better administration of the realm of kitchen. But we shrewdly sus-

pect that words so fair in sound are not without a dash of bitter irony. In truth, the revelations which we have disclosed before us are not, it might be thought, as likely to encourage as to intimidate. Exhortations and warnings go hand in hand. Any young lady who could peruse the pages of this handbook, and be able to view the prospect of housekeeping under certain restrictions, with a heart still undaunted and firm, must be a heroine. Chapter after chapter, and episode after episode, illustrate with a painful vividness the ills to which impecunious housewives are heiresses. There is, of course, a "comfort" in the possibility of safely traversing the tumultuous seas of domesticity; of escaping, at last, after years of trial, unimpaired in mind and body, from the shoals and quicksands with which nature has interspersed life's voyage in the shape of obstinate servant-maids; but this is very cold cheer. It is something to be told of the ends to which "bread-crums and bones" may be converted; but it is also sorrowful to learn how persistently "Keziah," or "Mary Anne," will refuse to be led into the path by which she should go. Servants seem to be possessed of the power of sneering in a manner which is particularly mortifying to young mistresses. Disagreeable hints are thrown out as to the nature of "superior places," and others of a similar kind, which are almost sure to tell. Lastly, comes the most grievous wrong of all. When, by a course of arduous enterprise, the raw material of menialism has been reduced to a manageable form, when from chaos something like order and harmony have been derived, the mistress must expect to be robbed of her handiwork. "So soon as they have learned one's ways," is Mrs. Warren's mournful reflection, "servants go." It is the old story of patient kindness requited by black ingratitude. It is true there remains the consolation that "it is a great happiness to walk the daily path of life in imparting knowledge to the minds of the ignorant, and receiving the thanks of one's fellow-creatures and the blessing of God." But there are some things to which the mildest of natures cannot submit without flinching. It is annoying to see one's favourite old china broken by the dearest of friends, and the vexation of losing a good servant, when one has been fortunate enough to get or make one, is not even counterbalanced by the agreeable knowledge that one has done good in one's generation, and sown seeds the fruit of which is to be reaped by others.

Disguise the fact how we will, there are unpleasantnesses in conducting a domestic establishment on a very meagre income, with which no philosophy or exhortation can do away. The comfort which Mrs. Warren supplies bears too close a resemblance to that given to the long-suffering Patriarch by his friends. Experiences of poverty are a poor species of consolation; and whether a lady takes it into her head to tell us "how she managed her house on 200*l.* a-year," or how she contrived, after much labour and travail, to instil a few notions of the art of cookery into a deplorably ignorant and unintelligent young woman, much as we may admire her perseverance, we cannot but pity her fate. Pots and pans open a fine sphere of womanly action, doubtless; but it is quite possible to extol them with

a foolish and unnecessary extravagance. Finally, to predict the probable woes of housekeeping is hardly the same thing as to heal them.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

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SCIENCE.

THE HEAVENS.

- The Heavens*. An Illustrated Handbook of Popular Astronomy. By Amédée Guillemin. Edited by J. Norman Lockyer, F.R.A.S. (Bentley.)
- Les Merveilles Celestes. Lectures du Soir.* Par Camille Flammarion. (Paris: Hachette.)
- Astronomy without Mathematics.* By E. B. Denison, Q.C. (Christian Knowledge Society.)

WHEN a book-maker is in want of a subject we recommend him to choose astronomy. This noble science is so full of facts, it deals with periods of time and distances so vast as to baffle all attempts to conceive them, and the bodies which it professes to describe are always before our eyes, that it has numberless advantages over

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a homelier subject. There is also another advantage for the book-maker. A little knowledge will go a very long way, and a small foundation of fact is strong enough to bear a very large superstructure—we will not say of fiction—but of airy nothings, dissertations on the probable origin of the solar system, and speculations as to its immutability; all of which are a source of pleasure to those who “delight in the spacious liberty of generalities.” But to write a book which shall give the general reader a clear idea of the principal astronomical phenomena, a book which shall be profound without being obscure, and familiar without being vulgar or commonplace, is a task of a very different nature. Such a task has M. Guillemin set himself in the work at the head of this article. It has recently appeared in an English dress under the editorship of Mr. J. Norman Lockyer, an astronomer whose name we recollect in connexion with a valuable paper on the planet Mars, published in 1862, in the “Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society.” We have already noticed the first French edition of this work (READER, v. 9.), but as it is probable that “The Heavens” will now—thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Bentley—become more generally known to English readers, we will add a few words to our previous notice.

“The Heavens” is a translation of the second French edition, and is enriched with notes and additions by Mr. Lockyer, and, in a lesser degree, by the Rev. W. R. Dawes, the Rev. T. W. Webb, and Messrs. Balfour Stewart, and Birt. The work is divided into three parts, which treat respectively of the Solar System, the Sidereal System, and the Laws of Astronomy. Passing over the introduction, in which our friends the Chaldean shepherds are not forgotten, we find an admirable account of the actual state of our knowledge of sun-spots, and of the various theories by which their presence is explained. Next follow the planets in the order of their distance from the sun. For obvious reasons the description of the Zodiacal Light occupies a place between that of Venus and the Earth. “Whatever may be the true nature of the Zodiacal Light, observation proves that the substance of which it is composed lies in a region which sometimes extends beyond the earth’s orbit, sometimes lies within it.”

For similar reasons shooting-stars and star-showers are discussed immediately before the planet Mars, where Mr. Lockyer brings his own observations to bear. The chapter on shooting-stars is a very interesting one, and it is made more complete by some additions by Mr. Lockyer. We are surprised, however, that neither he nor M. Guillemin mentions the discovery of soluble salts, such as chloride of sodium, potassium, and even of ammonium in the Orgueil meteorite of May, 1864, a fragment of which was exhibited at Mr. De La Rue’s last soirée. M. Cloez’s analysis of this remarkable body revealed the presence of 5 per cent. of soluble salts, and 6 per cent. of a black amorphous organic substance similar to lignite or peat. Professor Wöhler, in reporting these results, infers that wherever meteorites come from, organic matter, and hence, probably, organized matter—organisms, in fact—must also have an existence. Chloride of ammonium has also been detected by M. Daubrée quite recently in a meteor which fell in Algiers. In the chapter on Jupiter we find a notable instance of the difference of the results obtained by observers of equal eminence. M. Guillemin, quoting Beer and Mädler, says that “the light of the fourth satellite is bluish,” but Mr. Dawes, in a very brief note, tells us that “the light of the fourth satellite is reddish, decidedly.” This reminds us of the chameleon dispute, and perhaps, after all, the two cases are not so very dissimilar. When M. Guillemin comes to speak of the planet Neptune we are very glad that he has had the justice to mention Professor Adams’ name. In the first French edition of this work, the illustrious Cambridge professor was simply ignored alto-

gether. What M. Guillemin omits Mr. Lockyer supplies in a note which gives a succinct account of the discovery. Deprecating any unnecessary reference to the exact share of credit due to each, he says: “Let us rather look upon the work of each as a stupendous triumph of intellect, and the result to which the labours of both have led us as one which for ever sets the seal on the theory of universal gravitation.”

The first part, which occupies a good half of the entire work, is brought to a conclusion by a chapter on comets, which is illustrated by very beautiful engravings, and a “general survey of the solar system.” As regards the nature of comets, it may not be out of place to refer to the spectrum-observations of Mr. Huggins made a few weeks ago on Comet 1. 1866. He finds that the light of the coma differs from that of the nucleus, which is self-luminous, and consists of matter in the state of ignited gas. “As we cannot suppose the coma to consist of incandescent solid matter, the continuous spectrum of its light probably indicates that it shines by reflected solar light.”

The second part of the work is devoted to the Sidereal System. Many readers will be surprised to learn that the mean number of stars visible to the naked eye at the same time and place is not more than 3,000. “The aspect of the multitude of sparkling points,” says the author, “which are scattered over the sky, makes us disposed to believe that they are innumerable, and to be counted, if not by millions, at all events by hundreds of thousands.” At the same time, the number will vary considerably with different individuals. M. Heis, of Munster, says that he can see, with the naked eye, 2,000 more stars than the 3,256 contained in Argelander’s *Uranometria Nova*. Again, we have Mr. Lockyer’s authority for the statement that a member of the Astronomer Royal’s family habitually sees seven, and on rarer occasions twelve stars in the Pleiades. A striking comparison is given on p. 314 of the number of stars visible, in a given part of the heavens, to the naked eye, and those which the telescope reveals to us. On one page M. Guillemin gives a woodcut of a part of the constellation of the Twins, in which six stars are visible to the naked eye; on the opposite page is a drawing of the same part as seen through a telescope. With the aid of a refractor of six inches aperture, 3,205 stars may be counted in this region. The chapter on the movements of the stars is suggestive, and contains a discussion of the permanency of the constellations. On this point, however, “we may rest quiet, and study the sky as it is without fearing present confusion: let us leave to our descendants of the year 9000 to determine the position which the star of the Hunting Dogs, known as No. 1830 Groombridge, will then occupy. It may possibly be found in Berenice’s Hair!” Motion seems to be a law common to all the heavenly bodies; and “the celestial spaces, far from presenting to us immutability and immobility, are the theatre of incessant movement and continuous transformation. The study of variable stars, and of new or temporary stars, which have suddenly appeared, to disappear as suddenly, will again furnish us with decisive proof of a truth that has taken us so long to learn.” Passing over a mass of interesting details relating to star clusters, temporary stars, and double stars, we arrive at the chapter which treats of the physical and chemical constitution of these bodies. It might have been expected that the means by which we have been enabled to read the silent messages sent to us by the heavenly bodies would be fully treated of. We should have expected to read here how Foucault, in 1849, narrowly escaped making the discovery with which Kirchhoff’s name is now identified, and to learn something of the splendid researches of Messrs. Huggins and Miller. We find nothing of the kind. The subject is dismissed in less than a page; but the deficiency is well supplied by Mr. Lockyer, who, by a quaint conceit, compares a beam of white light to “a bundle of things called rays,

each with its own special mission, as if each had a master of its own, and had a different tale to tell, or note to sing. And so it has. Let all the rays in a sunbeam sing in chorus, and the chord which falls on our eye, as sound would fall on our ear, is *white*.” We must, however, protest against such statements as this: “It can be affirmed that the chances against the hypothesis [of the nature of the sun as revealed by the spectroscope] being right are something like 300,000,000 to 1.” Although not in the habit of “making a book,” we should be glad, as a matter of curiosity, to know the “odds” on some of the other disputed questions of the day. It is interesting to notice the changed aspect of the nebulae when a telescope of superior power is brought to bear. On page 401 M. Guillemin gives us the drawings of the nebula in Canes Venatici after Sir J. Herschel and also after Lord Rosse. In the first case there is a certain appearance of regularity, which vanishes when viewed through Lord Rosse’s instrument, and the nebula assumes the well-known spiral form, which is reproduced on the cover of the book in a way which is forcibly suggestive of hair-brushing by machinery. The remainder of the second part is occupied by a description of the various forms of nebulae and of the different answers which have been given to the question, “What is a nebula?”

The third part, which contains an account of the laws of astronomy and of astronomical instruments, is short, and does not call for any special notice. The editor gives us some of the results of his experience as an observer, with regard to the management of telescopes, which will doubtless be found useful by many amateurs. An appendix by the same hand, containing the elements of the planets, catalogues of variable, double, triple, and multiple stars, brings the work to a conclusion.

Such, then, is “The Heavens,” which is, without doubt, the very best book of the kind ever published. No expense has been spared in the illustrations, which are widely different to the conventional and starved woodcuts generally found in books of this class. The style is clear and precise, and although the work was written “for youth and unscientific ‘children of larger growth,’” and not for scientific readers, we fancy that the latter class will be disposed to give it a warm welcome, more especially for the sake of the illustrations. The author thinks that “the natural and physical sciences possess in themselves attraction sufficient to render any ornament superfluous.” He has carried this out to the utmost, and in consequence his book is singularly free from “fine writing,” or any approach to it. Some will find his manner cold, and wanting in animation. Of Mr. Lockyer’s additions we have already spoken. They add considerably to the value of the work, although in some cases a little more detail would have been desirable. For instance, it conveys nothing to tell us that “some interesting conclusions,” which are not stated, “have recently been published by a French observer.” The terms “French observer,” and “recently,” are too vague to be of any real service. Again, Mr. Lockyer tells us that “Mayer has recently proved that the action of the tides tends to arrest the motion of the earth upon its axis.” Now this theory is contained in Mayer’s “*Dynamik des Himmels*,” published in 1848, which can scarcely be called “recent.” We believe that the idea originated with Kant, who published it so far back as 1754. It only remains to speak of the translation and here we are treading on delicate ground, for it is the work of a lady—of Mrs. Lockyer, in fact. It has, of course, been revised by her husband, so far as the technicalities are concerned, but we have much pleasure in congratulating Mrs. Lockyer on the manner in which her task has been performed. Occasionally a little slip takes place—such as a “grand” instead of a “great” circle; but these detract in no way from the general excellence of the translation. It is a matter

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of regret that such a work as this should have been published without an index.

If the language of "The Heavens" is a little too cold and precise, that of "Les Merveilles Celestes" is the very opposite. Nearly every chapter is headed by an "elegant extract"—generally a poetical one. Although M. Flammarion is not profound, he is at least well read; and, judging from the number of anecdotes and quotations, he is quite willing to let his readers know what others have said. As a matter of principle, the habit of devouring books of "wonders" is a greedy one. It is like picking out all the plums, and leaving the less tempting, but more wholesome, part behind. Sweets, both real and intellectual, are apt to cloy, and this principle of "natural selection" tends to make nourishing food produce a fit of indigestion. However, M. Flammarion's book is very readable, and is written in a light and gossiping way. *Apropos* of the measurement of the sun's distance by means of the transits of Venus, he relates the following anecdote: In the year 1761, the French astronomer, Le Gentil, whose name should have ensured him better treatment at the hands of the goddess, was sent to India by the Academy, to observe the transit of Venus. Unfortunately, he was delayed on the voyage, and he landed at Pondicherry a few days too late. Nothing discouraged, however, he determined to wait for the next transit, which would take place in 1769. He took every precaution to ensure a favourable observation. The day and hour at length arrived, the sky was clear and everything looked well; but alas, at the very moment when the little black spot should have touched the solar disk, a cloud arose and covered the sun until after the planet had emerged. Not being able to make up his mind to wait for the next transit in 1774, the astronomer packed up his instruments and returned to France, where he died in 1792. The book is not remarkable for any great amount of accuracy. Bode's law becomes Bode's law, and the metonic cycle is described as having reference to the eclipses instead of to the lunations.

Mr. Denison is an excellent lawyer, he is no mean authority on church clocks, and we learn now that he is an astronomer. "Astronomy without Mathematics"—a somewhat ambitious title by the way—has been written, because the author "was asked to do so." This is hardly a sufficient justification for telling us that the telescopes of Sir Isaac Newton's time "did not take in enough planet-light at a mouthful to show the smaller planets." Furthermore, we entirely deny the truth of the statement, that "if you ask half-a-dozen people how big the moon looks, you will probably get as many different answers, varying, perhaps, from a shilling to a large round table." We were always of opinion that, in the end, it is far easier to learn mathematics than to do without them, "for many parts of nature can neither be invented with sufficient subtilty nor demonstrated with sufficient perspicuity, nor accommodated unto use with sufficient dexterity, without the aid and intervening of the mathematics." Mr. Denison's non-mathematical readers will certainly omit those parts in which, in spite of himself, he has been compelled to introduce mathematical formulæ and geometrical diagrams. On the other hand, those who do understand mathematics will prefer to see the results worked out according to stricter methods. A reader who is assumed to be ignorant of the meaning of the "square" of a number, will hardly be able to grasp the idea of a force varying inversely as the square of the distance, or to understand even the most simple properties of the conic sections. We look upon "Astronomy without Mathematics" as a mistake, but at the same time we must admit that it has been compiled with much greater care than is usually the case with books of this class, and that it may be read with profit by those who merely wish to obtain an elementary knowledge of ordinary astronomical phenomena. The work contains a useful table of the elements of the

solar system, in which the masses of the sun and planets have been reduced in conformity with recent discoveries. The circumstances of the discovery of Neptune are noticed more fully than is usual in an elementary book.

So far as we are aware, none of the authors of the books noticed in the present article are practical observers, who are, fortunately perhaps for science, too busy with their own special work to write general treatises on astronomy. Sun-spots occupy the attention of one; the planet Mars absorbs the time and thoughts of another; whilst a third investigates the structure of the nebulae. This division of labour has been, and we believe will be, productive of the most beneficial results. Any tendency to exaggerate the importance of particular discoveries, or to push a theory too far, will be speedily checked by the friendly criticism of their fellow-labourers. But, whilst we deprecate that criticism which strives only to render certain things doubtful, we can never have enough of that which labours to make doubtful things certain.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Geological Magazine*. This periodical which is really the old "Geologist" in its *imago* condition, has recently undergone a metamorphosis, and appears to have been improved by the change. It has now passed into the hands of Messrs. Trübner and Co., and presents us this month with the best number which has yet been issued. The mechanical features of type and paper are good, and the illustrations are numerous and effective. Professor Phillips gives us a capital paper (No. 2 of the series) on Oxford fossils. His descriptions relate principally to the *Libellulidae* or dragon-flies, specimens of the wings of which are found in the *Stonesfield Slate*. Speaking of his early fly-catching propensities, the author writes, "I was myself a zealous student of insects; and remember nothing with more pleasure than the chase of *Agrion Aeshna* or *Libellula* by the side of some Yorkshire water. No doubt such waters were haunted in the Oolitic days by the insects we are now considering, and it became an inquiry of some interest in the further study of them whether they manifest any especial affinity with congeneric forms now visible in Australia, as do the Cycads, which are their companions in the deposits of Stonesfield, with the plants, shells, and mammals of that old-fashioned corner of the earth." "On the Structure of the Thames Valley and its Contained Deposits," by S. V. Wood, jun., is the continuation of a paper to which we called attention when noticing the last number. It is an able contribution to the department on which it treats, and is accompanied by a number of very useful sections. The jaws and teeth of a sauroid fish from the Kimmeridge clay of Culham, Oxfordshire, are described and figured in an article of Professor Owen. The reviews, notes, and correspondence, are all of interest.

The *Intellectual Observer* opens with an article and handsomely-coloured plate on Mr. Gassiot's experiments on "Stratified Discharges in Vacuum Tubes." Physicists are aware that when electric discharges or even galvanic ones of high tension are passed through a vacuum, very brilliant effects of colour are produced. Mr. Gassiot's experiments refer chiefly, then, to the best method of producing these interesting results. "When the discharge takes place through a tube containing an infinitesimal quantity of atmospheric air, the light of the positive pole is fiery red, that of the negative one violet. A hydrogen-vacuum tube, in which bulbs alternate with capillary tubes, shows white light in the former and red in the latter, dark bands alternating with light ones. Carbonic acid tubes give a greyish light, and nitrogen orange red. The dark bands or striae vary in shape according to the nature of the so-called vacuum." "An Old Bushman" does not tell us much anent fish-culture which we did not know before; but as he describes "methods" and apparatus employed in other countries than our own, his observations are worth reading. "Notes on Fungi" is No. 5 of a series of rather technical, but useful, articles on fungus plants, by the Rev. M. J. Berkeley. We apprehend it is part of the publisher's intention to reprint these papers in a separate volume, else we think their introduction into a popular journal objectionable. The other articles are of unequal

value, and, save one of them, on the geology of the Moon, are of little importance. This exception is Mr. H. J. Stack's essay upon the geological structure of the Moon, which is a pleasantly-written and accurate contribution to the literature of "Selenography."

In the *Journal of Botany* we find a good paper, by Dr. J. E. Gray, upon *Anadyomene* and *Microdictyon*, and certain genera related to them, which have lately been discovered in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Gray illustrates his paper by an excellently-executed plate, drawn by Mr. Fitch. An article of more interest to the philosophic botanist is that by Dr. H. F. Hance, on the "Modern Tendency to Combine Species." This tendency the writer depreciates in forcible language, and he supports his censure by arguments of considerable ability. Now-a-days, instead of attention being directed to critical and possibly distinct forms, the practice of massing them together absolutely diverts attention from them, and thus impedes a careful and comparative study. The spirit of calmness, in which Dr. Hance enunciates his opinions, is highly to be commended. In speaking of the great authorities with whom he differs, he says, "I do not of course pretend to possess a tithe of their learning, experience, or varied opportunities for study. But, as in politics and religion, so in scientific questions, we find the most single-minded desire to seek truth, the acutest mental powers, and the ripest experience, consistent with the most widely divergent views; and many years of unremitting devotion to botanical studies gives me, I hope, a claim to state my own conclusions."

The *Ethnological Journal* for March contains a very elaborate paper by the editor, Mr. L. Burke, in which, among other things, he seeks to prove that the earth is a living organism. This idea is one which is by no means brought forward here for the first time, but it is approached from an original point of view, and with fresh arguments and illustrations. This, however, is itself but a part of a still greater subject, and we hear Mr. Burke is preparing a continuation which will open up a wide field of investigation to all who like to lose themselves in the maze of what may be called primary philosophy.

The *Floral World* appeals especially to those who are fond of gardening, and Mr. Shirley Hibberd's name as editor is sufficient recommendation to its readers.

Hardwicke's Science Gossip is a good number.

The *Year Book of Facts in Science and Art*. By John Timbs. (Lockwood and Co.)—*L'Année Scientifique et Industrielle*. Par Louis Figuier. Dixième Année. (Paris: Hachette.)—It is an excellent plan to look back at the end of the year and take account of our gains. This applies both to our tangible property, and also to the more shadowy, but none the less real intellectual property. To facilitate this retrospective review is, we suppose, one of the objects of such works as those at the head of this notice. We find less difficulty in noticing Mr. Timbs's book than we otherwise should, from the fact that there is so very little of Mr. Timbs in it. At least two-thirds consists of extracts, which the author is fair enough to acknowledge, from the *Mechanic's Magazine*, *Illustrated London News*, *Chemical News*, *Athenæum*, *Times*, and several others, selected with little care or judgment. In very few cases has Mr. Timbs taken the trouble to consult the original authority, and in consequence we have a double set of errors—the errors of the first abridger and those of Mr. Timbs's amanuensis. For instance, when describing the late Dr. Daniell's discovery of theine in the kola-nut, he tells us that "as kola is closely allied to the order which includes cocoa, perhaps theine might be found in theobromine." A very little knowledge of chemistry would have told him that theobromine is an alkaloid which occurs in *theobroma*, the generic name of the cocoa plant, and that theine and theobromine are two perfectly distinct substances. Again, Professor Voelcker is made to say that "fine natural deposits of potash" have been found in the salt mines of Stassfurth. Native potash has, we believe, not yet been noticed by mineralogists. If M. Dode's platinized mirrors come into general use, we shall have looking-glasses "positively given away," for Mr. Timbs tells us, on the authority of the *Mechanic's Magazine*, that the process is expected to cause a reduction "of from 40 to 100 per cent. in the cost." M. Figuier

falls into the same ridiculous error. Both works speak of Nobel, the introducer of nitroglycerine for blasting purposes, as Nabel. Professor Tyndall's researches on calorescence—which, in one instance, becomes "calescence"—are described twice. Under the heading "Electricity of the Ocean," we find described a little experiment by M. Duchemin, which is repeated a few pages further on. It is simply a small floating zinc and charcoal battery, which, being thrown into the sea, and connected with the shore by copper wires, rings a small alarm. The experiment is pretty; but it is no more the "electricity of the ocean" than the current obtained from an ordinary battery is "the electricity of sulphuric acid." The obituary is exceedingly meagre, and the space devoted to each name seems to be a matter of pure accident. If Mr. Timbs had ever heard of the "hot blast," he would scarcely have dismissed James Beaumont Neilson as "C. B. Neilson, engineer." The lamented Henry Christie is "Henry Christie, antiquary," Gressly, the geologist of the Jura, is "Gresby."—Of the "Année Scientifique" we can speak more favourably, but it has many of the faults of the "Year-Book." English names are, as usual, strangely metamorphosed. Mr. De La Rue is Mr. Warren, Whitworth becomes Withworth, and Mr. Hepworth, the builder of the cigar-ship, appears as M. Hawport. Sir Charles Hastings is Sir Charles Pastings; and the obituary contains a notice of Sir John Paxton. It would be very strange, indeed, if an invention were put forward without provoking one or two *réclamations*. In describing Mr. Gale's process for rendering powder non-explosive by mixing it with powdered glass, M. Figuier states that a *réclamation* has been made in favour of a Frenchman named Boyer. "Son secret consistait à mêler à la poudre du gaz acide carbonique, lequel est plus lourd que l'air." A moment's consideration will show that Mr. Gale's process is mechanical, whilst that mentioned by M. Figuier is chemical. The two are perfectly distinct. It is quite true, however, that a Frenchman named Piobert did invent Mr. Gale's method, or something very near to it, in 1835, but M. Figuier does not mention this. Amongst the more elaborate articles we may mention one on gigantic birds, which contains a good deal of information. We regret the circumstances which have necessitated the taking up so many pages with the cholera and the cattle plague. The section devoted to academies and learned societies contains nothing more than the reports of the annual meetings of the Academy of Sciences and a few other learned bodies. The obituary is full, and is tolerably trustworthy. We would advise Mr. Timbs and M. Figuier to take a lesson from some of the German scientific annuals. A book is none the less readable for being accurate, and it is certainly more useful. The spelling of proper names is not an insurmountable difficulty, and we hope next year to see a reduction of errors of this kind by at least "100 per cent."

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF PALESTINE.

[No. II.]

NOTE ON THE FORMATION OF THE BASIN OF THE DEAD SEA, AND ON THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LEVEL OF THE LAKE. BY M. LOUIS LARTET, & C., & C.

(Continued.)

III.—On the Hypothesis of an Ancient Prolongation of the Jordan to the Red Sea.

THE northern portion of the Great Valley of the Arabah, discovered in 1812 by Burckhardt, forms a natural part of the Basin of the Dead Sea. At about one-third of its length south of the lake, the floor of the valley rises imperceptibly, and the alluvial beds by which, up to that point, it is covered, there give place to hills of cretaceous formation, which hills thence continue for some distance to form a connexion between the secondary deposits on the two sides of the valley, at the same time acting (not very efficiently) as a natural barrier to the incessant progress of the sand, which is accumulated by the south-west wind in the southern portion of the Arabah.* These cretaceous deposits divide the Arabah into two distinct districts, and form the summit of a double anticlinal line,

* It has been remarked by several travellers that the Arabs give to the southern portion of the Arabah the name of Wady Akabah, from the little village at its southern end, on the shore of the eastern arm of the Red Sea, to which also it gives its name, while they reserve that of Wady Arabah for the northern portion next to the Dead Sea. I shall adopt these distinctions, and shall designate the whole region by the general term Arabah.

dividing the two Basins of the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

The discovery of this immense valley, extending from the lake to the Red Sea, naturally suggested to those travellers and geographers who first became aware of it, that it was an ancient channel by which the water of the Jordan had formerly flowed into the Gulf of Akabah. In 1828, M. de Laborde, on the faith of a series of topographical observations made by him from Akabah to Petra, as well as on his interpretation of the Bible narrative, further announced his opinion, that the interruption in the course of the Jordan had taken place at the time of the destruction of the Cities of the Plain, and that the formation of the Dead Sea was due to that interruption. M. Letronne,* however, interpreted the passages differently, and was the first to express a doubt on the reality of the supposed ancient communication. He grounded his conclusion mainly on hydrographical arguments drawn from Laborde's own map. He recalled the fact that Seetzen had remarked the existence of powerful streams running from the southern portion of the Arabah into the Dead Sea; and from the different direction of the lateral valleys in the northern and southern portions of the Arabah, he inferred the existence of a watershed in the middle of the assumed canal, and thence deduced the complete independence of the two basins.

The conclusions of Letronne, however, were the result of pure speculation, based on a limited number of observations by travellers whose opinion was directly opposed to his own, and they were therefore insufficient to combat the attractive idea that the course of the Jordan had been interrupted at the time of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Letronne was, therefore, stoutly opposed, especially by an eminent member of the French clergy, the Abbé Caneto, who upheld the theory of Laborde with much learning and ability. There the question would probably have rested, but that in 1837 the hypsometric measurements of Messrs. Moore and Beke, and the barometrical observations of Schubert, revealed to the scientific world the fact that the waters of the Dead Sea, which both Seetzen and Burckhardt had believed to stand higher than the ocean, were in reality enormously depressed below it.†

In 1837, M. de Bertou‡ explored the district, and fixed the amount of the depression at 419 metres. This figure was challenged by Captain Caillier, who erroneously endeavoured to reduce it to 200 metres; but notwithstanding this, the observations of De Bertou, as well as the measurements of Captain Lynch, and the second measurement of Lieutenant Symonds (Royal Engineers), have proved to be in close agreement with those of Lieutenant Vignes, of the French Navy, who accompanied the Duc de Luynes' expedition, and made a series of continuous horary observations with two of Fortin's barometers.§

The knowledge of the depression of the lake had already furnished a powerful argument to those who opposed the idea that the Jordan had formerly emptied itself into the Red Sea; and M. de Bertou, when he first traversed the whole length of the Arabah, confirmed in a remarkable manner the predictions of Letronne, by proving the existence of a watershed in the middle of the Arabah, the summit of which he indicated upon his map at about the latitude of Petra, and which, according to the approximate calculations of this conscientious and able traveller, reached the height of about 160 metres above the ocean.

From that moment the problem appeared to be solved as far as physical geography was concerned. In the face of so immense a depression as that of the Dead Sea, separated from the Red

* *Journal des Savants*, 1835, p. 596.

† Had these travellers but climbed the central hills of the country, as at Bethel, where the lake and the Mediterranean can be seen at once, they could not possibly have overlooked the difference in the respective levels of the two, which is very obvious from thence.

‡ *Description de la Vallée du Jourdain*, &c. (*Bull. de la Soc. de Géographie*, sec. 2, xii., 161.)

§ *Note sur quelques déterminations de coordonnées géographiques: Connaissance des temps*, for 1866.—The depression was discovered almost simultaneously by Moore and Beke and by Schubert, but the latter alone named a figure (93 toises). De Bertou afterwards met Moore in the Lebanon, learned his discovery from him, and shortly afterwards estimated the depression at 419 metres. This was increased by Russegger to 435 metres. In 1841 Lieutenant Symonds, R.E., made it 427 metres, subsequently reduced, after two sets of trigonometrical observations, to 400. Lieutenant Lynch's result was 1316·7 feet. The careful observations of M. Vignes gave 392 metres; and, lastly, Lieutenant Wilson, Royal Engineers, in 1865, at the head of a party of Sappers, by running a double set of levels from the lake to Jerusalem, and thence to Jaffa, would seem to have fixed the depression at 1,308 feet.

Sea by a watershed of 160 metres,* and receiving the waters of the Wady Arabah, it was all but impossible to believe in any ancient connexion between the Jordan and the Gulf of Akabah. It was certainly possible to imagine that an immense subsidence of the district had taken place, but such a subsidence could not have happened without enormous derangement of the strata forming the floor of the valley, and is absolutely negatived by the examination of those strata. If, however, it were necessary to add geological argument to the proofs already given of the non-interruption of the Jordan, I might say that an attentive study of the ground in the neighbourhood of the watershed of the Arabah has led me to the conclusion that the summit is a cretaceous interruption (*barrage*), separating in the most complete manner the two slopes of the district.

At that altitude, the cretaceous strata are covered with their own *débris* alone, and show no trace of any ancient watercourse in the direction of the Red Sea. It is also observable that in the ancient alluvial beds of the Wady Arabah the pebbles increase in size as the watershed is approached (in travelling to the south); and, further, that in the same ancient alluvium at the south-eastern end of the lake, flints are found belonging to certain varieties of felspathic and quartziferous porphyries, the beds of which are only found still further south.

(To be continued.)

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

OF all the wild theories which have been invented respecting the nature of the sun, perhaps the most extravagant is contained in "A Treatise on the Sublime Science of Heliography, satisfactorily demonstrating our great Orb of Light, the Sun, to be absolutely no other than a Body of Ice!" by Charles Palmer, gent., London, 1798. The sun is a cold body, says the author, because the temperature decreases as we approach it. Further, a convex lens of glass has the property of collecting all the rays which fall upon it at the focus; a lens of ice has the same effect. For these reasons, he believes that the sun is a huge convex mass of ice, which receives the rays of light and heat proceeding from the Almighty himself, and brings them to a focus upon the earth.

THE *Journal of Botany* will, during the absence of Dr. Seemann, be conducted by Mr. Carruthers, of the British Museum.

AT the last meeting of the Manchester Geological Society, Mr. Wunsch exhibited some vegetable fossils found in a bed of volcanic ash situated near Lagan Bay, in the Isle of Arran. The stone, in which the fossils were embedded, appeared like an ordinary piece of whinstone, and fossils in such a stratum were evidently novel. They appeared to be *Sigillaria*, *Lepidodendron*, *Lepidostrobus*, &c., and they had grown in a marine habitat, and had been enveloped with ash from an adjoining volcano. Mr. Plant read a very interesting paper on "The Geology and Fossils of the Primordial Zone in the Gold Districts of North Wales." The locality to which the paper related was in the neighbourhood of Tyddingwladio, about eight miles north of Dolgelly, and the class of rocks were the lingula, lying above the Cambrians.

ON Tuesday evening Mr. E. Atkinson, who has made several voyages with Mr. Coxwell, delivered an interesting lecture at the Highgate Literary Institution, when the experienced aeronaut, who was present, responded to an invitation to occupy the chair. Aërostation was thoroughly considered in a scientific and practical point of view, and Mr. Atkinson was surrounded with every requisite instrument and apparatus, the principal assortment of which was supplied by Mr. Hicks, of Hatton Garden. The chairman himself, in reply to Mr. Atkinson, gave an authentic narrative of the ascent seven miles high on September 5, 1862. Mr. Coxwell spoke of Mr. Glaisher's experiments and behaviour in complimentary terms, and the merits of the lecture having been alluded to by the chairman, the meeting separated.

THE *Magazin für die Literatur des Auslandes*, of the 17th ult., translates an article from the *Economiste Français*, written by Dr. A. Warnier, "The Life and Writings of Dr. Heinrich Barth," the African traveller. At the meeting of our Geographical Society, on the 11th of

* The level of this watershed was taken by M. Vigne with the barometer, by gradual and most careful operations, giving a result of 240 metres.

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last December, Sir Roderick Murchison, in noticing the death of Dr. Barth, did not give the full amount of credit as regards precedence, to the discoveries of the doctor which his German friends claim for him, so the translator of Dr. Warner's eulogium indulges in some introductory remarks in a regular German peddling way, and "points the finger of scorn against the nation of shopkeepers (Kramer-Nation) for its detraction from the doctor's merits as an African explorer."

THE Rev. W. A. Leighton, F.L.S., is preparing a "Synopsis of British Lichens," and will feel obliged by the communication of notes of the localities of the rarer species, and for specimens or descriptions of new lichens.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

MOLECULAR MORPHOLOGY.

YOU allow such a fair space in your columns to new works on the truly interesting science of chemistry, in which the atoms and molecules of bodies are still represented merely by the letters of the alphabet, that perhaps you may approve of a communication now and then on a supplement to chemistry, which might be called Molecular Morphology, and which aims at representing the atoms and molecules of bodies not by letters and numbers merely, but by forms and structures. Should such a method ultimately succeed, it will invest this delightful science with new charms; for it will bring chemistry into the same category with the natural history sciences. It will make the objects of chemistry objects of vision, not to the eye of sense indeed, but to the mind's eye, and such that they may be constructed in model or diagram, which is just as pleasing.

I am led to write upon the subject at present by having received from Paris the other day a small work of no small pretensions in this line, by M. A. Gaudin. I shall say but little about it now, however, as it is merely a brochure of 32 pages, and is only the forerunner of a grand work, on which the author informs us that "he has laboured night and day five hours on an average during thirty-five years, making in all 50,000 hours!" Thus is his method so far at least true to his profession, for on the title-page he designates himself "Calculateur du Bureau des Longitudes." M. Gaudin takes for the construction of his molecules no guide but the principle of symmetry and chemical formulæ as presented to him by the authorized chemistry, with a very general reference to the polyhedra of geometry. His constructions remain absolutely without verification. All that can be said in their favour is, that the number of atoms in them correspond to those of the chemist, and that they are put together in positions which are symmetrical in relation to each other. They are, therefore, of a certain value; for all nature proclaims the law of symmetry as the principle of her construction; and when we see symmetry manifested in every object that is visible, be it plant, animal, or crystal, it would surely be strange if symmetry did not prevail in those objects also which happen to be too small to be visible to our eyes, but which by their aggregation construct these visible objects which are so symmetrical.

But every one who has tried it knows—and all the great chemists of modern times, from Dalton onwards, seem to have tried it—that the elements even of a simple chemical formula may be placed in various, often in many, positions, all of which are symmetrical and all of which constitute good polyhedra. Now M. A. Gaudin's system seems to contain no principle to verify which one of all that are possible, or whether any one of them at all, represents nature. It is, therefore, very defective.

To find a truly philosophical commencement of the study of molecular nature in this point of view, it is necessary to go to the *Theoria Philosophiæ Naturalis* of Boscovich (Part II., § 239), which is certainly a work of wonderful genius. His atoms are, on a general view, much the same as those which are most generally believed in—viz., centres of force, now attractive, now repulsive. These he combines, and demonstrates both geometrically and mechanically as to the degree of stability proper to each combination, till he reaches the number 4. And having demonstrated the degree of stability proper to 4, when placed in the same plane, he proceeds in these words (clauses omitted which would be unintelligible without the preceding demonstrations): "But when not in the same plane 4 'puncta' may be placed so that they shall preserve their position with the great-

est stability. . . . For a regular pyramid may be constructed by them. . . . Then that pyramid will constitute a certain particle which is most tenacious of its form. . . . Out of 4 particles of this kind, disposed so as to construct a larger pyramid, there may be obtained a particle of a second order, somewhat less tenacious of its form. . . . And in the same way, from these particles of the second order, there may be constructed particles of a third order still less tenacious of their form; and so on, till those are arrived at which are much larger, but at the same time much more mobile and variable, and on which chemical operations depend, and of which grosser bodies are composed, and to which that very thing might happen which Newton advanced in the last query of his optics concerning his primary and elementary particles which gives rise to other particles of diverse orders."

Newton's particles, to which our author refers, are very different from his own. Newton's particles are merely those of Descartes, rendered immutable by denying their fragility. The passage Boscovich refers to is no doubt the following: "Now the smallest particles of matter may cohere by the strongest attractions and compose bigger particles of weaker virtue; and many of these may cohere and compose bigger particles whose virtue is still weaker, and so on, for diverse successions, until the progression ends in the biggest particles, on which the operations of chemistry and the colours of natural bodies depend, and which, by cohering, compose bodies of a sensible magnitude." (Optics, Qu. 31). And here I may remark, how different are the conceptions of these great men as to the structure of bodies from those which are current in the present day. In the present day the ultimate atom, and its double merely, under the name of molecule, are all that are admitted in the construction of homogeneous masses, however exquisite the structure of these masses may be.

Boscovich did well in stopping where he did: for previously to the discovery of the atomic weights, such a synthesis as he contemplated could neither be controlled nor verified. Now, however, the state of the case is different.

J. G. M.

A NEW COMET.

Washington, D.C.A.S.A., Feb. 16.

I TAKE the liberty to send you the elements of the orbit of a comet which I discovered at the United States Naval Observatory, on the evening of January 5th:—

$T = 1866, \text{ January } 14 - 8144, \text{ Green. M. T.}$
 $\Omega = 232^\circ 56' 52''$
 $\pi = 59 \quad 32 \quad 12 \quad \text{App. Eqx.}$
 $i = 11 \quad 38 \quad 7$

Log. gr. = 9.98520

Retrograde.

These elements have been computed from observations made by Professor Ferguson on the 5th, 6th, and 7th January, and show that the comet is identical with that discovered by Herr Tempel, at Marseilles, in the latter part of December. I have compared these elements with those in the catalogues, but do not find any resemblance to them.

I have been searching for Biela's comet for more than four months, but as yet without success. I have used the ephemerides of Professor Santini and Dr. Hind, and I am confident that no comet visible in my telescope of four inches aperture has appeared within twenty-five degrees of the predicted places. I shall continue to search for it during the present month, and shall use a larger telescope than that which I have heretofore used.

Your astronomical readers may be interested to know that Professor Joseph Winlock, Superintendent of the American Nautical Almanack, has been appointed Director of the Cambridge Observatory, vice Bond, deceased. Mr. T. H. Safford, late first-assistant to Mr. Bond, has been elected director of a new Observatory at Chicago, Illinois. This institution has purchased Mr. Alvan Clark's magnificent 18½-inch telescope, and it is now being mounted at that place.

HORACE P. SUTTLE,
Assistant-Paymaster U.S. Navy.

SYSTEM OF THE UNIVERSE.

No. IV.

THOSE who have not learnt to distinguish the orbital paths of the heavenly bodies from their paths through space, will be perplexed by a fancied complexity in the mutual relations of

the several simultaneously revolving concentric systems, and, seeing only a vision of motion warring against motion, may be tempted to deny the possibility of solar motion altogether. Such persons, when walking up and down the deck of a steamer under way, should consider how completely their own uniform pace on the deck is independent of the progressive movement of the vessel, and how tranquilly it is carried on (in smooth water) notwithstanding that progressive movement, although when computed from a coast line, along which they may be passing, the personal velocity by the land diminishes in walking against, but increases in walking in the direction of, the advancing steamer. They will then perceive that the motion of the individual members of systems is not affected by the proper motion of their centres, but continues its own course and rate as tranquilly as though those centres were at rest.

This is an important astronomical principle; but the general force of the example through which it is learnt is sometimes overlooked, because the single circle of comparison, the zodiac, cannot give its evidence as a continuous stream, like the coast line, when the concentric relations of the solar system are considered, its testimony then being only reached by computing the residual change from epoch to epoch; and it is in this manner that the real nature of the several inter-dependent motions has been determined.

The vastness of the scale of the motions of the concentric celesti-polar theory, deserves special attention. Some idea of this may be formed from the fact that such a base line as the mean diameter of the earth's orbit, computed at more than 180 millions of miles, fails to produce an appreciable divergence from parallelism in its polar axis—a sensible conical motion, or nutation, being only reached through the diameter of the orbit of the sun—its culmination in the passage round the orbit of the central sun, marked by the successive substitution of one star for another, as the polar star, in succeeding epochs of time. But by far the most convincing evidence of it is found in the persistent aspect of the starry firmament, in which it is extremely difficult to detect the existence of any change in the inter-stellar relations, the only change that has hitherto been determined, having been attributed to a proper motion of the several stars implicated.

A change has been noticed, however, in the position of some of the stars, such as Sirius, Arcturus, and Aldebaran, which points to the possible action of a general cause; for these stars are slowly passing to the south. This is an important fact with reference to the theory I am advancing, for it is possible that this southerly recession may be an apparent, and not an actual motion; and in reality depend upon a drawing of the solar system towards the north.

Could this be proved to be the case, it would furnish the first evidence that concentration is in the act of taking place throughout the entire compound system.

But concentration is taking place in the intra-zodiacal system. The progressive shortening of the tropical year, already noticed, proves this. So also does the secular diminution in the obliquity of the ecliptic; as well as that advance of the position of the moon in its orbit attributed to a secular acceleration of its motion; and the progressive diminution in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit; and as, even apart from the motion of the centric sun, eccentricity in the orbit of the central sun would cause that body to draw its entire system nearer to the celestial polar centre, as it drew nearer to the centric sun, it can, therefore, be considered as established that such a general systemic concentration is in actual progression.

The possibility of an attraction acting upon the earth from the north celestial pole, is pointed at by the analogy of the attraction of the earth upon the moon, in virtue of which the latter always turns the same hemisphere towards the terrestrial systemic centre of gravity.

The evidence that such an attraction has acted upon the earth is found—1. In the accumulation of the land in its northern hemisphere. 2. In the configuration of its continents, which, for the most part, taper towards the south, as though the superficial grouping of the land had taken place during a process of sedimentary deposition towards the north. 3. In the much greater depth of the southern than of the northern oceans, which shows that the accumulation of the land in the northern hemisphere is not the result of a mere accidental surface arrangement, but affects the whole mass of solid matter.

The evidence that such an attraction may be still acting on the earth is found—1. In the

magnetic storms, which occur simultaneously on the earth and the sun, notwithstanding their great distance apart, accompanied by—2. Luminous aurora, which, from the general direction of their lines of radiation, and the flow of their luminous pulsations from the north, are termed *Northern Lights*. 3. In the general set of the magnetic currents, as tested by the action of the magnetic needle.

The evidence that it is so acting is found in the gradual elevation of the land in the northern hemisphere, which progressively increases its ratio with approximation to the pole.

An exception must be noticed here in the equally slow subsidence of the south coast of Greenland. This is the result of the action of a physical law, in virtue of which the relations of the polar axis are inverse to those of the equatorial diameter; so that any mechanical alteration in the dimensions of the one must be accompanied by an opposite change in those of the other. This law is aided in its operation by the law of revulsion, with a view to the preservation of a stable equilibrium in revolution. Under the combined action of these laws, the gradual increase in the force of the polar attraction produces a gradual elongation of the polar axis—an equally gradual contraction of the equatorial diameter. The great fissure of the Atlantic is one of the media through which these relations are rendered possible—the contraction of the equatorial diameter being accompanied by a slow approximation of its opposite shores, during, and under the influence of, which a gradual subsidence of the ocean bottom occurs; this subsidence drawing down the coast of Greenland with it.

That terrestrial revulsion exists, is shown in such sudden fissures of the earth's surface as from time to time take place, with elevation of one side; for in the instances that have lately occurred, or of which recent traces are found, in either hemisphere, the degree of elevation of the land is one of progressive increase towards the poles, as though the shock or earthquake, fissure and elevation (with or without subsidence of the opposite side) were the consequence of a sudden yielding in the crust of the earth—a fracture and recoil from over-tension—the direction of the progressive increase in elevation showing the direction towards which the tensile force operated.

Three things are accounted for under this view: 1. The progressive elevation of the land, with a maximum tendency towards the pole, in the southern hemisphere; which otherwise was an exceptional phenomenon. 2. The tendency of the seismic or volcanic bands to follow lines parallel to, and not very distant from, the coast lines; since it is precisely here that the habitual tension would be greatest—the power of resisting proportionately weakened. 3. The dependence of certain classes of earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, upon slow variations of a constant cause, acting from without, cumulative in its character, and, from time to time, at irregular intervals, though with a degree of periodicity, suddenly at those points where the resistance is most feeble, to a limited extent overcoming the mechanical inertia which has hitherto restrained it.

The evidences of oceanic revulsion are singularly clear. They are found—1. In the slow subsidence of the islands of the Pacific, now in progress. 2. In the greater elevation of the water on the Pacific than on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panama—a phenomenon which inverts the relations that ought to exist, since the equatorial currents in both oceans set to the west, but is accounted for by the greater expanse of the Pacific, requiring a proportionate increase in volume, in order to preserve the equilibrium of the earth as a spheroid of rotation. 3. In the greater density of the water in the southern hemisphere, due to a stronger impregnation with salts in solution, in which another physical effort is seen to counterpoise the preponderating density of the northern hemisphere, as a mass. 4. In the diminished barometric pressure in the southern hemisphere, which shows that the general oceanic surface elevation, or water line, is higher in that hemisphere than in the northern. 5. In the increase of the actual, upon the geographically-computed, nautical distances in the long voyages of the southern hemisphere, as determined by the logs of navigators; which shows that the southern oceanic surface is greater than geometrical affirm, and, considered as a measure of volume, proves that the south oceanic volume is greater than received theories would make it. 6. In the visibility of the polar star some 23° south of the

equator—a fact only to be accounted for by the increase in oceanic volume now claimed.

It is impossible for me to do more than give a categorical notice of these several classes of evidence, each of which deserves to be dwelt upon at considerable length, since I have already taken up so much of the valuable space of THE READER; but this is sufficient to show how strong are the claims of the hypothesis I have suggested to further examination by those more competent than myself to test the value of evidence—more able than I am to carry out the several investigations upon which the details of proof rest—and in their hands I now leave it.

I will only add that, while on the one hand the cycle of precession, as the index of the period of the secular revulsive polar tide, becomes under this theory the measure of the geological epochs, on the other that variation in the degree of terrestrial stratification determined by those epochs, and not dependent on local modifying causes, as well as the progressive alteration in the character of the sedimentary strata, and of the fossil organic remains embedded in them, are consequences of the eccentricity of the orbit of the centric sun, through which, during the successive revolutions of the central sun, the entire system is carried, first, along an expanding, looped, spiral path, from the celestial polar centre, and then, as at present, on a similar, but now contracting, path, towards it again—the volume of the tide, or degree of oscillation in level with alternate submergence and re-elevation, diminishing during recession, to increase again during re-approximation. These secular variations, though slow in their operation when considered in their relations to time, necessarily embody vast alternations in transition through space, during which the whole of the cosmical and especially of the climatic relations of the earth must undergo a complete change—its aspect, condition, and power of sustaining life pass through a series of consecutive phases.

Viewed in this way, the revolution of precession is the great astronomical measure of the geological changes of the earth, and therefore possibly the unit of the so-called "days" of creation of the Mosaic and other ancient cosmogonies; while in the various combinations resulting from the subordinate revolutions of the several systemic members, the elements present themselves for tracing the connexion of the meteorological and other periodic phenomena with which science is familiar, and to the discovery of the causes of which it is now devoting its energies.

HENRY PRATT.

Hampton Park, Hereford, Feb. 27, 1866.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 22.—J. P. Gassiot, V.P., in the chair. The following papers were read: "Account of Experiments on the Flexural and Torsional Rigidity of a Glass Rod, leading to the Determination of the Rigidity of Glass," by Mr. J. D. Everett. "Note on the Relative Intensities of Direct Sunlight, and Diffuse Daylight, at different Altitudes of the Sun," by Prof. H. E. Roscoe and Mr. J. Baxendell.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Feb. 27.—Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair.

Mr. Selater exhibited a male Chilean deer (*Cervus pudu*), presented to the menagerie by Mr. Charles Bath.

Dr. Gray exhibited a series of glass models of *Actinia*, made in Dresden, presented to the British Museum, by the Rev. Robert Hudson.

Some notes by Dr. C. A. Caufield on the habits of the American prong-buck (*Antilocapra americana*), which had been addressed in a letter to Professor Baird, from Monterey County, California, in September, 1858, were read. Dr. Caufield's notes tended to show that this animal sheds its horns periodically, and thus confirmed Mr. Bartlett's observations, made upon this animal from the example living in the Society's Gardens.

Dr. J. E. Gray communicated a general revision of the genera of phyllostomine or leaf-nosed bats, in continuation of former papers upon the arrangement of the chiroptera.

Mr. A. G. Butler read a note on the species of lepidopterous insects belonging to the genus *Brahmaea* of Walker.

Dr. W. Baird communicated descriptions of two new species of phyllopodous crustaceans from the collection of the British Museum.

Mr. P. L. Selater read a paper upon the genera and species of caprimulgidae belonging to the New World. Mr. Selater divided the family caprimulgidae into three sub-families—1. *Capri-*

mulgina; 2. *Steatornithina*; 3. *Podargina*—and showed that each of these groups possessed very distinct characters, which might almost entitle them to rank as three different families. As regards the American caprimulgidae, Mr. Selater was acquainted with about forty well-distinguished species of this group belonging to the New World, amongst which was one from New Grenada, considered to be new, and proposed to be called *Stenopsis ruficervix*.

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Feb. 27.—Mr. J. Crawford, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

The following papers were read:—

1. "On the Origin of the Somali Race which Inhabits the North-Eastern Portion of Africa," by Colonel Rigby. These people were said to be distinct from any other race on that continent; their various tribes differ very much in colour, some being much lighter than others, but all speak the same language; and there is but slight difference in manners and customs. The Somali language has not the slightest resemblance to either the Arabic, Amharic, Galla, or Somali languages, and notwithstanding from the intercourse with the Arabs many Arabic words have been added to it, its construction has not been influenced by these. If the Somalis are descended from the Abyssinian invaders of Arabia Felix, who were driven out by an army sent by Khusru Anushirwan, King of Persia, it is remarkable that they have not preserved any knowledge of a written character. The author considered them an original unmixed African race.

2. "On the Origin and Progress of Written Language," by the President. The author reviewed in outline the origin of pictorial and phonetic alphabets in various parts of the world, conceiving for languages, as he is known to do for ethnic races, many and numerous distinct centres. Of the European languages he asserted that the invention of languages which took place at many different points among many of the precocious races of Asia never took place among any of the races of Europe. The Greeks, from their genius, and perhaps also from being geographically so near to and at some points even in actual contact with Asiatics, were the first European people to adopt letters from the latter. The Jews as well as the Greeks were asserted to have borrowed their letters from the Phoenicians, but at a much earlier time.

The speakers in the discussions were Dr. Campbell, Dr. Ronay, Mr. Thrupp, Mr. Thos. Wright, Mr. Robins, Mr. Blake, Mr. Evans, Mr. Mackie, Colonel Rigby, and the President.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—Ordinary Meeting, March 6.—T. Bendyshe, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The following new members were elected: Francis Campbell, Esq., M.D.; Jacob Epstein, Esq.; Alexander Colvin Fraser, Esq.; Henry Webster, Esq.; Major H. C. Grove Morris, R.M.A.

Local Secretaries: J. Hillier Blount, Esq., M.D., Assam; Henry Sewell, Esq., Real del Monte, Mexico.

The following papers were read:—

1. Mr. A. Higgins, Hon. For. Sec. A.S.L., "On the Orthographic Delineation of the Skull." The author of the paper exhibited and described the apparatus which Dr. Lucae, of Frankfurt, had invented, by which the skull was suspended under a glass plate affixed to a frame, and a mechanical dioptr was so adjusted as to guide the artist's pencil in drawing the outline of the skull. He exhibited many beautiful cranioscopic atlases which had been constructed in Germany on this plan of delineation, and defended the orthographical method against the arguments which had been brought against it by Vogt and others. The best astronomical drawings were constructed on this principle, which he trusted would receive in England the same approbation which German anatomists had given to it.

2. Mr. W. H. Wesley, F.A.S.L., "On the Iconography of the Skull." Mr. Wesley criticized in detail the orthographic system of drawing, and pointed out that it produced a depiction wholly unlike the object as we see it. A geometric drawing was very unlike a skull itself; and for practical purposes it was necessary to have a correct perspective drawing, taken by the aid of the camera lucida by an artist who was thoroughly acquainted with anatomy. He pointed out that photographic representations were often inconvenient, as the cracks and other defects in the skull often appeared more prominent in the photograph than the anatomical

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characters, which alone the cranioscopist wished to record.

3. Mr. C. Carter Blake, "On Certain Supposed Simious Skulls, Ancient and Modern, with reference to a Skull from Louth, in Ireland." [Reported in THE READER, October 7th, 1865.—Vol vi., p. 408.]

4. Dr. Paul Broca, Secrétaire Général à la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, "On a New Goniometer, for the Measurement of the Facial Triangle." The author presented an instrument which he had had made to measure, on the living subject as well as on the skull, the facial angle and the facial triangle. This goniometer is nothing else than Professor Busk's craniometer, to which was added a goniometric apparatus, composed of a quadrant, of an ascending rod, and of a transverse exploring rod. His goniometer was not a more exact one than some of those which are already known; but it had the advantage of being more simple, more easy to manage and to carry, and, in fact, less costly. We see how the notions furnished by the facial triangle are superior in importance and exactitude to those which are furnished by the mere facial angle. We thus comprehend how it is that Cuvier and Etienne Geoffroy St. Hilaire, to attain this, did not refuse to employ the most complicated constructions. But these complications, which did not daunt them, have rendered their successors timid; and though no person has failed to recognize the great utility of the facial triangle, it has been allowed to fall into desuetude, some persons, declining to take so much trouble, and some, because they were not familiar with geometrical constructions, and therefore feared to commit error. To apply the facial triangle to use, it was accordingly necessary to simplify it, and to render it more easily understood. Dr. Broca did this three years ago, with the aid of his craniograph. Craniographical drawings, giving the exact proportions of all the points of the skull, permit all the angles and all the triangles imaginable to be measured; but the Craniograph is not applicable on the living subject; and he thought that the goniometer, which he now exhibited was the first instrument which permits the elements of the facial triangle to be measured on the living subject.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL.—Feb. 26.—Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., President, in the chair.

The paper read was "An Exploration of the River Iurds, a Tributary of the Amazons," by Mr. W. Chandless. For about a century past, it has been considered certain that a large river which flows eastward through the rich southern provinces of Peru east of the Andes was the head-water of the Purús; and as native Brazilian traders from the Amazons had ascended the river for a long distance and found no obstructions to navigation, it was concluded that this stream must supply an easy means of communication between the eastern parts of Peru and the Atlantic. Mr. Chandless hired an open boat and a crew of Bolivian Indians at the town of Manaos, on the Rio Negro, and commenced his ascent of the Purús on the 12th of June, 1864. He succeeded in reaching nearly to the sources of the main stream, and returned to the Amazons in February, 1865. The length of the river he found to be 1,866 miles. The South Peruvian River (Madre de Dios) is not, as has been hoped, the head-water of the Purús, the river ending two degrees further north in the same central wilderness through which it flows throughout its whole course. The small tribes of Indians living near the sources had never been in communication even with the semi-civilized tribes lower down, and still used their primitive stone hatchets.

Mr. Bates considered that the fact of the Purús not reaching the populated part of Peru would prevent the Purús being a channel of communication between the eastern parts of Peru and the Atlantic.

Baron de Mauá said that, as a Brazilian, he might announce to the meeting that the Amazons would soon be thrown open to all nations. In 1864, before he left for Europe, he voted, in his place in the Chamber of Deputies, for throwing open the navigation of the river. Unfortunately, the bill went up to the Senate too late in the session to be passed, and the war with Paraguay (a war made on account of frontiers) had since intervened; but he fully hoped that the bill would pass this year.

Mr. Gerstenberg mentioned the recent discovery of a depression in the Andes of Ecuador, which was soon to be made available as a means of communication between the settled portions of that country and the Atlantic, *via* the Amazons.

At the close of the meeting Mr. Naish, of Brighton, exhibited and explained an ingenious apparatus, called a new Tellurion, which, when in movement, showed all the various movements of the earth in relation to the sun and sidereal heavens.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—March 2.—The Marquis Camden, K.G., President, in the chair.

His Lordship announced that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had consented to be Honorary President of the Archæological Congress, to be held in London on the 10th of July next.—Mr. W. de G. Birch exhibited gutta-percha impressions, taken by Mr. Ready, of three seals of remarkable historical interest—an Irish Exchequer seal, used by Henry VI., appended to a Harleian charter, dated 27th September, 21 Hen. VI. [1442]; another which he was inclined to think is that of Gilbert de Sempringham, founder of the Sempringham Order of Monks, and to be referred to the early part of the twelfth century; and the first great seal used by Charles I. The last is appended by a parchment label to a grant of special livery, dated December 5, A.D. 1626.

Mr. Walter H. Tregelles read some notes on "Cæsar's Camp," Wimbledon, supplementary to a paper read by him at a meeting of this institute on the 2nd February, 1865. After glancing at the interesting character of the work, and its probably British origin, he observed that all traces of the hut-circles and of the cruciform mound, which some writers had described as being once visible at Wimbledon, had now vanished; the only relic ever found on the site being a cheese-shaped sling-stone, of baked clay. The subject of cruciform tumuli was then adverted to, and a list of five or six known examples was given, with illustrations. Mr. Tregelles exhibited a large scale survey of the camp, accompanied by numerous sections.

Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., described a very curious mosaic pavement, found by him at the Roman Station of Caerleon on Usk, at the beginning of the present year. The mosaic, which represents the famous labyrinth of Crete, is well preserved, and is of much interest.

Mr. J. Jope Rogers gave an account of a mural grave belonging to the family of Carminow of Carminow, in Mawgan Church, near Helston, Cornwall. The grave, forming part of the south wall of the transept, was discovered in June last year. It was covered by a stone coffin, built into the wall, having its base line level with the floor, with no external evidence of its existence. It contained a perfect skeleton laid out as if in burial, but without any remains of a coffin except a few small fragments of metal. The stone coffin, of the form in use until the thirteenth century, was filled with rubbish, which contained three skulls, some small fragments of alabaster, the head of a hammer, and part of a rake with the remains of its wooden handle. Adjoining the grave, in a low arched recess, were two effigies—one of a knight, the other of a female.

The Rev. Charles Lowndes exhibited a case of Anglo-Saxon remains, consisting of umbos of shields, spear-heads, knives, &c., exhumed from a field in the possession of the late Dr. Lee, of Hartwell, Bucks.

The Rector of Whaddon contributed drawings of mural paintings disclosed in Whaddon Church, Stony Stratford. Canon Rock attributed the paintings to the latter part of the reign of Edward III.

Amongst the objects exhibited was a Book of Hours, French, of the fifteenth century, containing pedigree in MS. of the original owner. The volume, which has some admirably executed illuminations, was brought by the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P. Mr. Henry Shaw exhibited a fine painting by Anthony Kress, of Nuremberg, sixteenth century, in the original case. Dr. Kendrick, of Warrington, sent a collection of casts of imperial golden bullas, and a gutta-percha impression of the inscription on a leaden salt pan dug up at Northwich. Mr. C. Faulkner produced a rubbing of a Saxon head from the coffin of St. Cuthbert in the Manuscript Room, Durham.

ANTIQUARIES.—March 1.—Mr. Wykeham Martin, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. J. More Molyneux exhibited, and the secretary read a letter, hitherto unedited, written by Sir George More, Lieutenant of the Tower, at the dictation of James I., on the 19th December, 1615, and containing a message which Sir George was to deliver to his prisoner, the Earl of Somerset.—Mr. Spedding read a long paper defending the King from complicity in

the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury: the charge was made for the first time long after. The terms upon which the King stood with Somerset were shown in a letter addressed to him by the King in January 1614-5, six months before the death of Overbury, and published in the Halliwell collections. It was a long and laboured remonstrance, showing that Somerset had become presuming, imperious, and exacting. The conduct of James was natural, consistent, and intelligible from first to last. As soon as he heard of the crime, and that Somerset was open to suspicion, he placed the case in the hands of Coke, the last man to have entrusted with this matter, if he himself were implicated. Coke was permitted to talk from the Bench of a Popish conspiracy, which only existed in his own imagination. The letter exhibited that evening was inconsistent with anything but innocence on the part of King James. The prisoner had complained of being sent to the Tower; James showed him in reply that as the charge against him was one of murder, no rank could exempt him from confinement there. If he were innocent, he was no worse off than others of high rank who had been confined there on unfounded charges; if he were guilty, the King implored him to confess his guilt, and he would not be slow to extend him mercy. In this offer, Mr. Spedding contended the King had a pure motive and a good object. In the case of the countess, who was undoubtedly guilty, and confessed, he fulfilled his promise, and remitted his sentence. So he did also in the case of the earl—not because he had confessed, but because the evidence against him was in the King's opinion too weak to warrant the verdict of guilty. It is true that Somerset, shortly before his trial, had thrown out hints of matters affecting King James in connexion with the murder which he would disclose if brought to trial, and that these threats had seriously affected King James, as they would probably affect anyone against whom such charges were made; but they did not cause him to alter his course. He confronted the danger, though no doubt he dreaded it; and in Mr. Spedding's belief, the insinuations thrown out by Somerset were utterly unfounded.

CAMBRIDGE PHILOSOPHICAL.—Feb. 26.—Professor Babington exhibited specimens of *Cyperus Syriacus* from the Botanical Gardens, Cambridge, and a specimen of *Cyperus Papyrus*, brought by the Rev. H. B. Tristram from the Lake of Gennesaret, pointing out the peculiarities of the two species—the former, the plant cultivated in hot-houses in England, grows in Sicily and on the Syrian coast; while the latter, the so-called *Papyrus of Egypt*, though rare in that country, is common in Nubia, Abyssinia, and on the White Nile, where it is found in abundance 6° north of the Equator. Bruce had described it as growing in Palestine; and Mr. Tristram had found it at Gennesaret and near Lake Hâleh.

Professor Liveing exhibited an Echinoderm from the Coralline Crag, of Aldborough. This had been described (from imperfect specimens) by Professor E. Forbes under the name of *Echinarachnius Woodii*. Professor Liveing said that the leaf-like form of the ambulacral plates about the mouth, and their crenate edges, showed that this determination was erroneous; and referred it to the Genus *Rhynchopygus* (D'Orb).

By Mr. Harry Seeley: "On a New Theory of the Skull and of the Skeleton; with a Catalogue of the Fossil Remains of Vertebrate Animals contained in the Woodwardian Museum." The object of this paper was to prove that pressure and tension were the stimulants of growth in bone. This theory was supported by a great number of examples tending to show that the size and development of a bone depended upon the forces to which it was subjected, and that the skull could not be considered as merely a modification of the vertebræ.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL, MANCHESTER.—Feb. 20.—R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

Mr. E. W. Binney, F.R.S., said that in the calcareous nodules found in the upper foot coal, he had met with a small stem of fossil wood showing structure in a very perfect state. It belonged to the genus *Dadoxylon*; but he was of opinion that it was a new species. The specimen was more complete than any other with which he was acquainted.

A paper was read "On Air from off the Atlantic, and from some London Law Courts," by the President.

The specimens of air collected by Mr. Fryer when on his way to West Indies, and those col-

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lected in Antigua, are worth remarking, as the first agrees with the figures obtained previously when examining air on the sea shore and open heaths of Scotland, where the highest average was obtained, and the second agrees with the numbers obtained in more inhabited but not closely inhabited places.

Those from a law court are interesting; they are the most deficient in oxygen of any specimens found during the day in inhabited places above ground. The first is almost exactly the same as the average found in the currents of galleries in metalliferous mines; that from the lantern is nearly the same as the specimens found close to the shafts of the same mines, meaning of course the average of many specimens. No mills or workshops are so deficient in air. Mere change of air will not purify a room like this—a current must pass through it for a long time until complete oxidation takes place.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL, 8.—“On the Origin and History of the Figures of Giants in the Guildhall, London,” Mr. Black.
BRITISH ARCHITECTS, 8.
GEOGRAPHICAL, 8.30.—Sir Roderick I. Murchison in the chair. “On the Recent Volcanic Eruptions in the Harbour of Santorini,” “On the English Captives in Somali Land,” Colonel Rigby; “Twelve Months at the Confluence of the Niger and Tshadda,” Mr. T. Valentine Robins.

TUESDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—“On the Non-Metallic Elements,” Professor Frankland, F.R.S.
SYRO-EGYPTIAN, 7.30.—“An Analysis of the Chronological Lists of Manetho,” Mr. James Wigram.
ENGINEERS, 8.—Discussion on “The Hydraulic Lift Graving Dock.”
ETHNOLOGICAL, 8.—“On the True Assignment of the Bronze Weapons, &c.,” Sir John Lubbock and Mr. Frederick Lubbock; “On the Adaptation of Races of Man,” Rev. F. W. Farrar.
ZOOLOGICAL, 8.30.—“On *Microhynchus laniger*,” Mr. St. George Mivart; “On the Minor Characters of Species of Mammals,” Mr. Andrew Murray; with other papers.

WEDNESDAY.

MICROSCOPICAL, 8.—Papers will be read by Dr. Maddox, Mr. Luffen West, Dr. Groville, and others.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, 8.—“On Visible Speech, or a Universal and Self-interpreting Physiological Alphabet,” Mr. A. M. Bell.

THURSDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—“On the Non-Metallic Elements,” Professor Frankland, F.R.S.
STATISTICAL, 4.—Anniversary.
NUMISMATIC, 7.
LINNEAN, 8.
CHEMICAL, 8.—Adjourned Meeting.
ROYAL, 8.30.
ANTIQUARIES, 8.30.

FRIDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—“On the Evidence of the Existence of an Ethereal Medium Pervading Space,” Mr. Balfour Stewart.
PHILOLOGICAL, 8.

SATURDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—“On Structural and Systematic Botany,” Rev. G. Henslow.

ART NOTES.

A DISTINGUISHED young English nobleman, whose name we do not feel at liberty to mention, is applying himself just now to the study of art, in the schools of Antwerp, with a devotion which is rarely seen equalled among those who make painting their profession. He lives privately as plain M—, makes his pedestrian excursions with his fellow students into the country, when time permits, and takes his share with them in humble fare and hard work. Of all the students he is the earliest astir, and his drawing practice is sometimes carried far on into the night. The schools in Antwerp are second to none in Europe; and all those who have experienced the expense, tumult, and temptation of the French capital, prefer them immensely to those of Paris.

IN our notice last week of the work of M. Gallait representing the Bishop of Ypres in the act of announcing to Counts Egmont and Horn the result of their trials, we should have mentioned that admirable replicas of it, and of the companion picture, “Vargas taking the Oath on his Appointment as President of the Council of Blood,” were exhibited in the French and Belgian Gallery the season before last. The one just purchased by the King of the Belgians is, no doubt, a large work executed from the finished replica in question.

JOHN PHILLIP, of Spain, is on the point of setting out for Italy, where he will sojourn for the next three months. His contributions to the Royal Academy this year will consequently be limited. They are three in number—a fine full-length portrait of the Lord Advocate of Scotland, largely and broadly treated; a portrait of cabinet size of a handsome lady seated on a sofa; and a very fascinating composition of a Spanish priest telling a story of a parabolic kind

to an old woman and several young girls, all circled round the brazier. The expression in the various faces of mirth and intense enjoyment is rarely managed; and one can easily see that the reverend father is a master in the art of storytelling, and that his audience are most gratefully and hilariously appreciative. The girl on the right hand is a glorious specimen of Andalusian womanhood, and the picture altogether one of the most complete Mr. Phillip ever painted.

ON Monday evening, Mr. H. O’Neil finished his course of four lectures on “Art” at the Royal Academy. His audience, large at first, increased with every lecture; and on Monday several Academicians were fain to find seats among the students, as the places among their compeers were more than occupied. Mr. O’Neil throughout the whole course was impressively earnest in every word he uttered, and not unfrequently his fervour rose into real eloquence. The cheering with which he was again and again greeted, both by students and Academicians, brought back to the minds of the older portion of his audience, as a distinguished R.A. informed us, the healthy enthusiasm of former times.

THE recent number of Grimm’s *Ueber Künstler und Kunstwerke* mentions a hitherto unknown painting by Leonardi da Vinci, the portrait of a young man, in the highest state of preservation, the colouring being remarkable for the transparency which is the very perfection of Leonardi da Vinci’s manipulation, as noticed by Vasari. The painting is in the possession of the Commerzienrath Alexander Mendelshon, of Berlin.

IN all the biographies of Hans Holbein he is stated to have died of the plague in London, in 1554; but we have no record of the plague raging in London in that year, nor of the spot where Hans Holbein was buried. Tradition, according to Strype, has always pointed to the Church of St. Catherine Cree as the place of his sepulture, which would be at variance with the supposition that he had died of the plague. In the new volume of the *Archæologia*, Mr. Black brings forward a most curious and interesting document from the archives of St. Paul’s, a copy of the last will and testament of “John Holbeine, servaunte to the Kynges Majestye,” from which it appears that this John Holbeine, if identical with Hans Holbein, was already dead in 1543. This John Holbeine seems to have died in great poverty.

THE funeral of the late Mr. Godfrey Sykes took place on Wednesday, at the Brompton Cemetery, and was attended by most of the officers of the department which may be said to have fostered, developed, and employed his talents. He was one of the first ornamentists of the day, and in modelling terra cotta was unsurpassed. The arcades of the Horticultural Gardens are by his hand; and the ornament of the new residences, and of the façade of the theatre of the Kensington Museum, will bear comparison with any modern, and most ancient work. We will reserve our remarks on the peculiar excellencies and defects of these buildings till they are open to the public. Mr. Sykes was educated at the Sheffield School of Art; but his style must be traced rather to the influence of Mr. Stevens, who at that time was employed in the town, than to any excellence in the system of our Schools of Design, which have at present produced but a poor crop of the art they were specially established to develop.

MUSIC.

SCHUMANN’S “PARADISE AND THE PERI,” AT THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

FEW things could have shown more clearly the progress which Schumann’s music has made in the regard of English people, than the manner in which his cantata was received on Monday evening by the “Philharmonic Society.” A few years ago, even the advocacy of Madame Goldschmid failed to make the work acceptable. The performance of the other night was heartily enjoyed by at least a considerable minority, and tolerated without overt signs of weariness by the rest of the audience. When such a change can make itself felt in what is thought to be the head-quarters of conservatism, the fact confirms irresistibly the inference which all other observation has made clear enough. There is now no doubt that our English prejudice

against Schumann’s music is wearing out. It was not altogether an unreasonable prejudice, for genius is always a rare thing, and there is, therefore, always a moral (or arithmetical) presumption against a new man being a genius; but it had long been without excuse. The simple fact that all Germany thought this man’s music worth hearing, ought to have dispelled our first suspicions—ought, at least, to have guaranteed him a fair hearing. But it is satisfactory to find that at last his music is now being allowed to tell its own tale. We are listening to it with open ears and open minds; and whatever place is finally given to Schumann in the ranks of the great composers, it will at least not be denied that he was a great composer. The change of opinion is worth noticing; not only for the interest of the particular question, but as giving a useful lesson as to the proper functions of criticism. Such favour as Schumann’s music has won among us, has been won in the teeth of the principal exponents of the public taste. This may be said here without offence, for THE READER, during its short existence, has scarcely meddled with the controversy (except to put in an occasional word of protest against the unfairness of prejudging the whole case), and has found it impossible to go along with the ardent enthusiasm of the more devoted “Schumannites.” It is not with malicious intent that we dwell upon the fact that criticism, in the matter of Robert Schumann, has been proved to be wholly in the wrong. It is, if anything, rather humiliating to find that the judgment, scholarship, and technical accomplishment, which have done so much to educate the public taste, have yet got such a tremendous capacity for going astray, and leading others astray. But the fact has, at least, one satisfactory aspect. It proves that in art, as in politics, there is such a thing as a living public opinion,—that, however clever and learned and honest the critics may be, the world, nevertheless, insists upon the privilege of occasionally thinking for itself, and tossing the judgment of its instructors to the wind. It has taken the liberty of doing this twice within the last few years in this matter of music, in a very signal manner. Some fifteen years ago the music of M. Gounod first made itself heard in England.* Criticism damned it utterly. A few years later it tried another appearance, and was damned again.† But the other day it made another appeal (“Faust”), upon which the public took the liberty of judging for itself, and decided that the music was very delightful, and that criticism might go to the —; the end of the matter being, that criticism has thought it best to agree, though a little sulkily, with the public. This was a sharp lesson, but it is being repeated, so far as we can see, though not so sharply, in *re* Schumann. The thick-and-thin believers in him are, as yet, not many—though they include, which is a significant fact, nearly every one who has any intimate knowledge of his music. But a large number of listeners have found out that, after allowing for much that is crude, hard, and dry, much that seems to some uncouth and even coarse, his work has, nevertheless, the essence of great music in it; that it is always noble in conception, generally grand in form, and splendid in colour; that it is strong, tender, and passionate, and eloquent sometimes with the purest melody. Feeling this, they are inclined to count him among the great composers, to reckon him as kin at least to the inspired ones that have gone before. But even those who think this, can scarcely be said to have made up their minds on the matter. They enjoy Schumann, but they would like to hear more of him before they say that they “believe in him” or not. And the wisest thing, as it seems to us, for criticism to do under the circumstances, is to stand aside for awhile and let the matter be

* “Sapho,” at the Royal Italian Opera, 1851.

† The “Messe Solennelle,” produced at St. Martin’s Hall by Mr. Hullah.

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judged before a larger tribunal. Criticism at best can only interpret laws, not make them; it can try causes by ascertained principles, but it has no business to lay down principles to meet new cases. If there is anything new in this music of Schumann's, the goodness or the badness of it cannot be decided by canons based upon what is old. Whatever then may be said, thought, or preached about it, at least, say we, *let it be played*. The business of music, after all, is not to furnish matter for æsthetical talk, but to give enjoyment to men and women; and Schumann's is at least enjoyable enough to repay the trouble of performance. Such performance will help the new faith, we fancy, better without preaching than with it. We doubt if, for instance, the last performance of the "Manfred" overture at the Crystal Palace was made more convincing by the passionate appeal with which Mr. Manns accompanied it in the programme. Such an appeal seemed to suggest a doubt as to the real power of the music, and we must confess that neither the performance nor the commentary altered the impression left by previous hearings of that overture—the impression of its unredeemed gloom. There is a place in music for gloom and terror, but a picture which is all gloom and terror, without a gleam of brightness in it, cannot be rendered in music. Beautiful sounds cannot represent the ghastly terrors of "Manfred;" and it is this impossibility, we fancy, which is at the root of the difficulty which made the commentary necessary.

On all accounts, therefore, we have to thank the Philharmonic Society and Professor Bennett for their spirited performance of "Paradise and the Peri." The execution was very uneven; the band being, as usual, far too loud for the room, and the chorus, though good in quality, being far from perfect in their parts. But the solo singing was all that could be wished. Madame Parepa was the Peri, and was admirably supported by Miss Robertine Henderson, as second soprano. The contralto music was taken by Miss Emily Pitt, the tenor by Mr. Cummings and Mr. Whiffin, and the bass by Mr. Thomas. Of the three parts into which the work is divided (representing the successive attempts of the Peri to gain admission to Paradise), the first made the least impression, being decidedly the weakest. The latter part of it is made up of the scene of the battle-field and the hero's death, which is treated with more violence than power, and which winds up with a singularly heavy and ineffective fugue. The second part depicts the scene between the maiden and her lover. In this occurs a delightful quartett, "There is in tears a magic night," which the audience of Monday insisted on hearing again, and the close of the act, where the Peri chants a sort of death song over the expiring lovers, the strain of which is echoed by the chorus, is one of the loveliest ensembles that can be imagined. The third part opens with a chorus of Houri, leading to the second repulse of the Peri from the gates of Paradise. Here is her grand air, a passionate lament at her rejection. As she descends again to earth, there is heard a delicious chorus of her sister Peris, sympathizing with her as they best may. Then comes the scene of the Child and the Penitent in the desert. The shedding of the tear, which plays such an important part in the fable, gives rise to a most exquisite quartett and chorus, "Blest tears of soul-felt penitence," which is one of the gems of the work; and the final scene of the Peri's triumphant entry into heaven is superbly jubilant. It cannot be said that the dramatic interest of the piece is strong. There is only one character (the Peri) which retains its individuality throughout; but the legend adapts itself excellently to the semi-dramatic cantata form, and the interest of both action and music increases as they proceed. We certainly should like to hear it sung by a properly-trained chorus; the effect of some of the concerted pieces was on this occasion terribly marred by an uncertainty of pitch

and time indicating insufficient rehearsal. But this is a drawback which is, unhappily, incident to many of our London performances. On the whole, the production of a little known but great work, has been a creditable beginning to the new season of the most patriarchal of our musical societies.

MUSICAL NOTES.

"THE Müller Quartett," a party of four fiddling brothers, sons of a father who was himself one of a like fraternal set, are making some stir in Paris by their admirable playing. If all that is said of them be true, they should be heard in London.

MR. SANTLEY has returned from Milan, and was to have sung last night at the performance of the "Creation," by the Sacred Harmonic Society.

THE Sanctus from the famous "Missa Papæ Marcelli," by Palestrina, was certainly the most interesting piece sung by Mr. Leslie's choir at their concert last week. Their singing of it helped one to understand the state of intoxication into which the first appearance of this wonderful music threw both church and people in the sixteenth century. Another leading point in the programme was Wesley's great motett, "In Exitu Israel," which was heartily enjoyed. A new anthem, by Mr. Leslie, "I will exalt Thee," for soprano, contralto, and chorus, pleased chiefly for the sake of the contralto solo, a song of the gentle, consolatory kind, which was charmingly sung by Miss Whytock. Mr. Leigh Wilson was substitute for Mr. Sims Reeves, and, very unwisely, tried (*inter alia*) one of the greatest songs of the great tenor, "Deeper and deeper still." This gentleman seems determined to illustrate vocally the fable of Phaeton and Apollo's car.

MR. ARTHUR SULLIVAN's symphony is down for performance at the Crystal Palace to-day. Never within our memory have the attendances at the Saturday Concerts been so large as of late. 7,000 people, we believe, came last Saturday. Perhaps Chang and his tea-party may have assisted in this result. The enterprising management caters for all tastes. Miss Limmern, who was the pianist, played Beethoven's C Minor Concerto in her usual clear, temperate, and finished style, but marred the result of her admirable playing by a most unconscionably long and overdone cadenza of her own composition.

MADAME PAREPA, it will be observed, has returned from her brilliant American *tournee* to take her accustomed share in the busy work of our musical season. She is singing as brilliantly as ever.

THE announced dates for the opening of the opera houses are—"Her Majesty's," on the 7th April, and "Covent Garden," on the 2nd. There is still talk, in spite of the late catastrophe, of there being English Opera at Drury Lane in the season.

THE "Bohemian Girl" of Mr. Balfe is to be shortly produced at the Théâtre Lyrique. M. Carvalho having already promised "Don Juan," and Nicolais "Merry Wives of Windsor." This is, indeed, vigorous management.

It is confidently asserted, and as confidently denied, that Mdlle. Patti has been engaged at a fabulous sum (400*l.* a-night) for the operatic season at St. Petersburg. We hope that, remembering the fate of Madame Bosio, the popular soprano has resisted the golden bait.

A PRETTY little operetta by Mr. Fred. Clay, the well-known amateur composer and author of "Constance," and many charming songs, is to be played very shortly by some amateurs for a deserving charity connected with the Guards. The operetta is called "Out of Sight," and has only on one previous occasion been played in public. The amateurs, on the next occasion, will consist of the following: Mr. Wade, Colonel De Bathe, Mr. Quentin Twiss, Mr. B. C. Stephenson, Mr. C. Fremantle, and Mrs. Weldon.

The Civil Service Musical Society is announced to make its first appearance in public on the 21st instant, at the Hanover Square Rooms. The band—under the direction of Mr. Arthur Sullivan, and the choir under the direction of Mr. J. Foster—are stated to have arrived at a most creditable state of proficiency. The society's band numbers already from forty to fifty members, and the choir upwards of eighty or ninety. It is understood that the singing, on the present occasion, will be exclusively such as is adapted for male voices; and as the society includes among its members some of the best amateurs in London, there seems

every chance of the concert being attractive. This will not be the only concert given by the society this season.

THE DRAMA.

THERE have been few subjects of interest in the dramatic world to discuss lately, and this may account for the little burst of anticipatory excitement caused by the mention of Dr. Westland Marston's new comedy at the Haymarket. Great things are always expected of the author of "The Patrician's Daughter" and "Donna Diana." Glasgow and Liverpool will have the benefit of the first blush of the "Favourite of Fortune." Mr. Sothorn likes dress rehearsals in the provinces, and so he goes away shortly with Miss Kate Saville, who is specially engaged to play the heroine, to make himself perfect before Easter week, when we are really to see the comedy at the Haymarket.

That is an ugly rumour which comes to us across the Atlantic, in which the name of Miss Bateman, the grand "tragedienne" of the Adelphi, figures prominently, and not over pleasantly. It is said that an humble American author sent in his claim for payment on account of an adaptation of "Leah," a claim long overdue. Miss Bateman pleaded minority, and, of course, the author went to the wall.

The new comedy in rehearsal at the Olympic is by Mr. Leicester Buckingham.

The new comedy for the little Prince of Wales's Theatre, by Mr. J. W. Robertson, the author of "Society," is spoken of very highly by those who have had a glimpse of it. By-the-bye, the Princess of Wales has been to see "Society" and "Little Don Giovanni," and the Prince has patronized the charming little house twice in the course of a fortnight.

When are we to have "La Belle Helene" at the Adelphi? It has been underlined ever since Christmas, and the announcement is getting almost as stale as that celebrated one a few years ago at the Lyceum, when we were told that "Mr. Phelps and Mr. Walter Montgomery have been engaged, and will shortly appear." It is needless to say that they didn't. Perhaps the Adelphi burlesque is also a myth.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

MR. ARTHUR SKETCHLEY re-appears at the Egyptian Hall next Monday in a new entertainment, entitled "Mrs. Brown at Home and Abroad." A new panorama has been painted by Mr. C. James, which is excessively beautiful.

SHAKESPEARE at the St. James's Theatre! Yes; we believe it is quite true that the revival of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" is to be followed by Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing." Miss Herbert will of course play *Beatrice*, and Mr. Walter Lacy *Benedict*. *Hero* will be impersonated by Miss Eleanor Bufton, and *Claudio* by Mr. Clayton, the young actor who made such a successful *début* the other evening, and of whom everyone seems to be talking. Talking of this theatre and the "legitimate drama" revivals, reminds us that there has been a slight change in the cast of Goldsmith's comedy this week. Miss Bufton, owing to a sad domestic affliction, has had to resign the character of *Miss Neville* for a short time. Her place has been very adequately filled by little Miss Rachel Sanger, the pretty *Aladdin* of the ill-fated Covent Garden pantomime. Those who remember to have seen this young lady make her first appearance before a London audience—it was but a few months ago—away in the wilds of Highbury, will be glad to think that their predictions are likely to be verified. Miss Sanger gave great promise then, and she has improved vastly since. Poor Mr. Henry Corri, of English Opera renown, has been sadly ill. His professional brethren and sisters, with their usual nobility, have come forward to help him. There will be a benefit performance at Covent Garden, consisting of a concert, a scrap of the ever-popular "Ticket-of-leave Man," and a farce.

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